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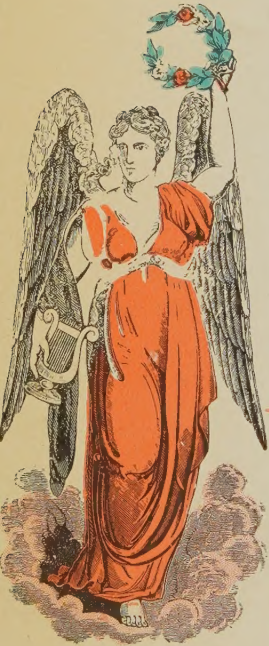
Soc'y for Promoting Religion and Learning

et has

Wenn wir kaum geboren werden,
 Ich vom ersten Lebensritt,
 Bis zum letzten Grad des Lebens,
 War ein Längens mit der Zeit.
 Ich 1 mit jedem Augenblick
 Geht uns're Kraft zurück,
 Und wie sich um jedem Jahre,
 Abneigt zur Totenbahn.



Und wer weiß, in welcher Stunde
 Hat die letzte Stimme ertönt,
 Denn Gott hat's mit seinem Rande
 Keinen Menschen noch entdeckt.
 Wer hin kam nur nachschickte,
 Geht mit Frauen aus der Welt;
 Da die Sicherheit hingegen,
 Ewig's Leben kann erregen.



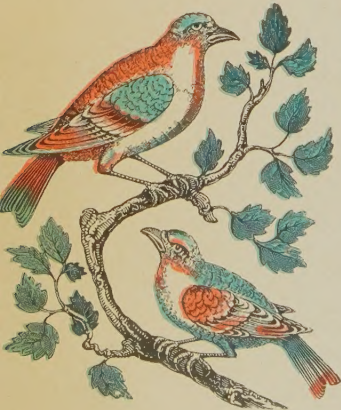
Geburts- und Tauffchein.

Wyrus den Ehegatten
 und seiner Frau
 eine geborene
Sohn geboren worden, den **25. Tag**
 im Jahre Unser's Herrn **1890**
 Diese **Sohn** wurde geboren in **Ober Herrn Township**
 in **York County** im Staat **Pennsylvania**
 in **York America**, und wurde am **20. Tag**
 im Jahre Unser's Herrn **1891** von dem Ehem.
 Pastor **Benjamin D. Lenz**
 getauft, und erhielt den Namen **Charles Emanuel**

Die Tauf-Bezeugen waren

Ich bin getauft, ich stehe im Dunkeln, Durch meine Tauf, mit meinem Glauben So sprech' ich steh mit freiem Munde, In Kreuz, in Todestag, Angst und Noth Ich bin getauft, des freu' ich mich, Die Kreuz nicht mir erschlösse.	Ich bin getauft, ob ich gleich sterbe, Was schadet mir das süße Grot? Ich weiß mein Vaterland und Erbe, Das ich bei Gott im Himmel hab Auch meinen Tod ist mir bereit Des Himmels Freud' und Freuden.
---	--

Witnesses and witnesses:
John D. Lenz, Pastor, York, Pa.
John D. Lenz, Pastor, York, Pa.
John D. Lenz, Pastor, York, Pa.
John D. Lenz, Pastor, York, Pa.



Sponsors Parents

Ich bin getauft in Gottes Namen
 dem Vater, Sohn und heil'gen Geist
 Ich bin getauft in Gottes Namen
 dem Vater, Sohn und heil'gen Geist

Witnesses and witnesses:
John D. Lenz, Pastor, York, Pa.
John D. Lenz, Pastor, York, Pa.
John D. Lenz, Pastor, York, Pa.
John D. Lenz, Pastor, York, Pa.



Lutherans
in
Berks County

Two Centuries of Continuous Organized
Church Life

1723

1923

Published by the Reading Conference of The Evangelical
Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania
and Adjacent States

BERKS COUNTY

1723

1923

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By

H. S. KIDD

WILLIAM S. RHODE PUBLISHING CO.

KUTZTOWN AND READING, PA.

Preface

BERKS county has more Lutherans than the total membership in the United States of anyone of twenty-three of the fifty-two recognized denominations. Twelve of the smaller denominations combined do not equal in numerical strength the Lutherans in Berks county.

This volume is written to preserve from oblivion the acts of a noble body of loyal Christian pastors and members who lived in Berks county during the last two hundred years and more, and who worshiped in the one hundred Lutheran churches in the county.

This volume does not assume to be a complete history of the events of note as many of the facts are buried as well as those who would remember them. Nor should one expect to find herein full histories of the various congregations in the county as each one of the older congregations could alone fill a volume more bulky than this, where the material is preserved.

In 1898 when the Ministerium of Pennsylvania celebrated the 150th Anniversary of its organization all pastors were asked to prepare and place into the archives historical sketches of their respective congregations. Because of a lack of material concerning the early events and possibly a lack of interest in the past, with a lack of a true appreciation of the value of the then present, it happened that few or none of the histories of our congregations were submitted.

Rev. J. W. Early, of Reading, whose interest, research and ability were recognized, was asked to prepare and submit such sketches. He undertook the work and by 1904 had gathered considerable material which by action of the Reading Conference was to be incorporated in a volume. For some reason it was never published. At the request of the conference this material then appeared in a series of articles in the "Reading Times" from July 2 to November 8, 1907.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

After Rev. Early's death in 1918 the Reading Conference appointed a committee to consider the question of publishing "Early's Notes". Various difficulties presented themselves and nothing further was done until in 1920 when Revs. F. K. Bernd, M. L. Zweizig, D. D., and H. S. Kidd were appointed a committee to again look into the matter and bring some recommendation. Before the plans of this committee were matured, the chairman, Rev. Bernd, died in May, 1921. At the fall meeting of the conference in 1921 the other two members of the committee made some definite proposals not all of which were acceptable to the conference whereupon the Rev. M. L. Zweizig, D. D., resigned. Rev. H. S. Kidd was then made the chairman and the Revs. C. G. Beck and W. F. Bond were named on the committee.

Much of the material in the notes left by Rev. Early was put into typewritten form by the chairman, a task of no mean proportions. It was then distributed to the pastors concerned who by action of conference were asked to submit historical sketches of their congregations. This was done in nearly all cases. The pastors were asked to verify what was supplied and add what was missing. The respective pastors deserve the credit for their congregational sketches, the material for which in many cases was difficult to gather.

Rev. C. G. Beck, of the committee, wrote five of the congregational histories besides his own. He also edited all of the sketches covering the congregations of the Reading Conference. Rev. J. L. Deaton wrote three congregational sketches besides his own and Rev. D. F. Longacre wrote one. Rev. Dr. C. C. Boyer wrote the sketch of the Shalters congregation now vacant.

Rev. C. E. Kistler wrote the article "A Brief History of Lutherans in Berks County". He also wrote the history of the Jerusalem Church, Albany Township, the article "Sunday Schools" and compiled the list of "Pastors 1700-1923" from Early's "Lutheran Ministers of Berks County" and the minutes of synod. The article "The Local Lutheran Church and the Church at Large" was written by Rev. Dr. Pfatteicher. Mr. M. A. Gruber of Washington, D. C., wrote

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

"The Tulpehocken Confusion". Rev. Dr. P. C. Croll wrote most of the material under the heading "Congregations in Berks County Formerly of the General Synod". Rev. H. B. Ritter wrote "The Molatton Church". Rev. A. M. Weber wrote "The Orphan's Home". Many of the facts and in a few cases the copy for "Brief Life Sketches" were taken from Early's, "Lutheran Ministers of Berks County," 1902. The "Biographical Record" of the Philadelphia Seminary, 1923, was also freely consulted.

Rev. W. F. Bond acted as secretary and treasurer for the committee and with the help of others interested furnished the material for "The Reading Conference", "Women's Missionary Society," "Luther League," and "Brotherhood."

Grateful acknowledgement is hereby made of the co-operation of the pastors without whose assistance the production of this volume would hardly have been possible.

Material not especially designated above has been compiled or written by the chairman who has also had charge of the voluminous correspondence of the committee and the many details necessary in the production of a volume of this kind. He has given the spare time of two years and some time that was not spare time in order to accomplish this work.

The proof has been read carefully. In this work the committee was assisted by the Rev. D. F. Longacre of Stouchsburg. In spite of every precaution it is hardly possible that no errors appear.

It is the hope of this committee that its humble efforts requiring only the genius of patience and hard work may to some measure at least be satisfactory to the Reading Conference whose honored representatives we are and that this book may from the story of the past bring to the reader an inspiration for service in the building of God's Kingdom.

H. S. KIDD.

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LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



Berks County is noted for its prominent hills, productive fields and prosperous towns.



Reith's Church cemetery near Stouchsburg. First church built on this spot before 1727. Also the burial place of J. Conrad Weiser, Sr., the Great-Grandfather of the sons of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg.

BERKS COUNTY

BERKS county was the seventh county organized in the state of Pennsylvania. It was erected in 1752 when its northern boundary was the State of New York. Formed out of territory which formerly belonged to Philadelphia, Lancaster, and Chester counties it has since yielded its territory to form twelve other counties to the north. The population of this immense territory in 1752 has been estimated at 12,000.

The Germans were decidedly in the majority but when it came to the selection of a name it seems the English influence was strongest as the county was named after Berkshire in England, the home of William Penn.

The shape of the county is roughly that of a diamond and its area about 900 square miles. The land is of a rolling character, interspersed with hills and mountains, and intersected by numerous streams.

The Schuylkill river flows through the middle of the county, entering it about 10 miles west of the most northern point it flows south to the city of Reading and thence in a south-easterly direction where as it leaves the county it becomes the dividing line between Chester and Montgomery counties. Its branches resemble those of a tree flowing into it from the fertile valleys for which the county is noted.

The only city in the county is Reading with a population of more than 100,000. About the same number of inhabitants are scattered through the 44 townships, 22 boroughs, and 100 villages.

Thirty-four churches in the county antedated its erection in 1752. Montgomery says, "The Lutheran religion was predominant in the county, both with the Swedes and Germans to the east of the Schuylkill, and with the Germans to the west. Some of the Germans were of the Reformed religion. The churches built by these denominations were mostly 'union' churches."

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

CITY OF READING

READING, the county seat of Berks County, is the namesake of Reading, the county seat of Berkshire, England, the home of the Penns. William Penn's two sons, Thomas and Richard, caused the purchase of the present site of the city and laid out the town in 1748. That part of the town for two blocks north and south of Penn street was then laid out as the same now exists. We cannot but admire the foresight of the founders which gave us the beautiful Penn square and Penn street. The town lots were sold at public sale, and many of the names of the first purchasers are those of honored ancestors of our citizens. In the conditions of sale it was provided that houses must be erected within a certain time, thus forming a nucleus of what has since become a "City of Homes".

In the line of municipal life, Reading made its first step, when on September 12, 1783, it became a borough. Its next step was on March 16, 1847, when it was incorporated into a city. Today it is the fourth city in the state in point of population and the fourth in manufacturing.

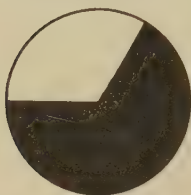
Few landmarks remain to remind us of the early days. On the northwest corner of Fifth and Washington streets was built in 1760 a tavern stand, which is today occupied by retail stores. At the northwest corner of Fifth and Penn streets the "Federal Inn" was erected in 1763 at which General Washington was a guest in 1794; since 1814 it has been occupied by the Farmers National Bank. Trinity Lutheran Church at the northwest corner of Sixth and Washington streets, stands today as it did when finished in 1793, a handsome specimen of colonial architecture.

See Cut on Opposite Page. Courtesy of Chamber of Commerce.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

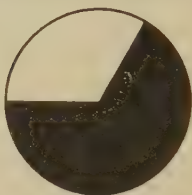
LUTHERAN GRAPHS

THE WORLD.

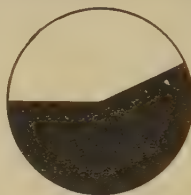


CHRISTIANS.
600,000,000.
ALL PEOPLE.
1,800,000,000.

CHRISTIAN WORLD. PROTESTANT WORLD.

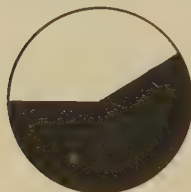


PROTESTANTS.
200,000,000.
CHRISTIANS.
600,000,000.



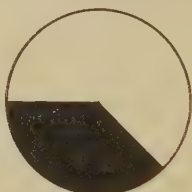
LUTHERANS.
85,000,000.
PROTESTANTS.
200,000,000.

UNITED STATES.



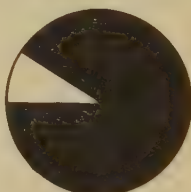
CHRISTIANS.
43,000,000.
ALL PEOPLE.
107,000,000.

CHRISTIAN U.S.



PROTESTANTS.
27,256,000.
CHRISTIANS.
43,000,000.

PROTESTANT U.S.



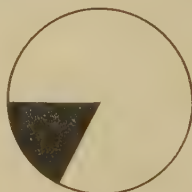
LUTHERANS.
2,500,000.
PROTESTANTS.
27,256,000.

BERKS COUNTY.



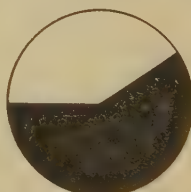
CHRISTIANS.
150,000.
ALL PEOPLE.
200,000.

CHRISTIAN BERKS.

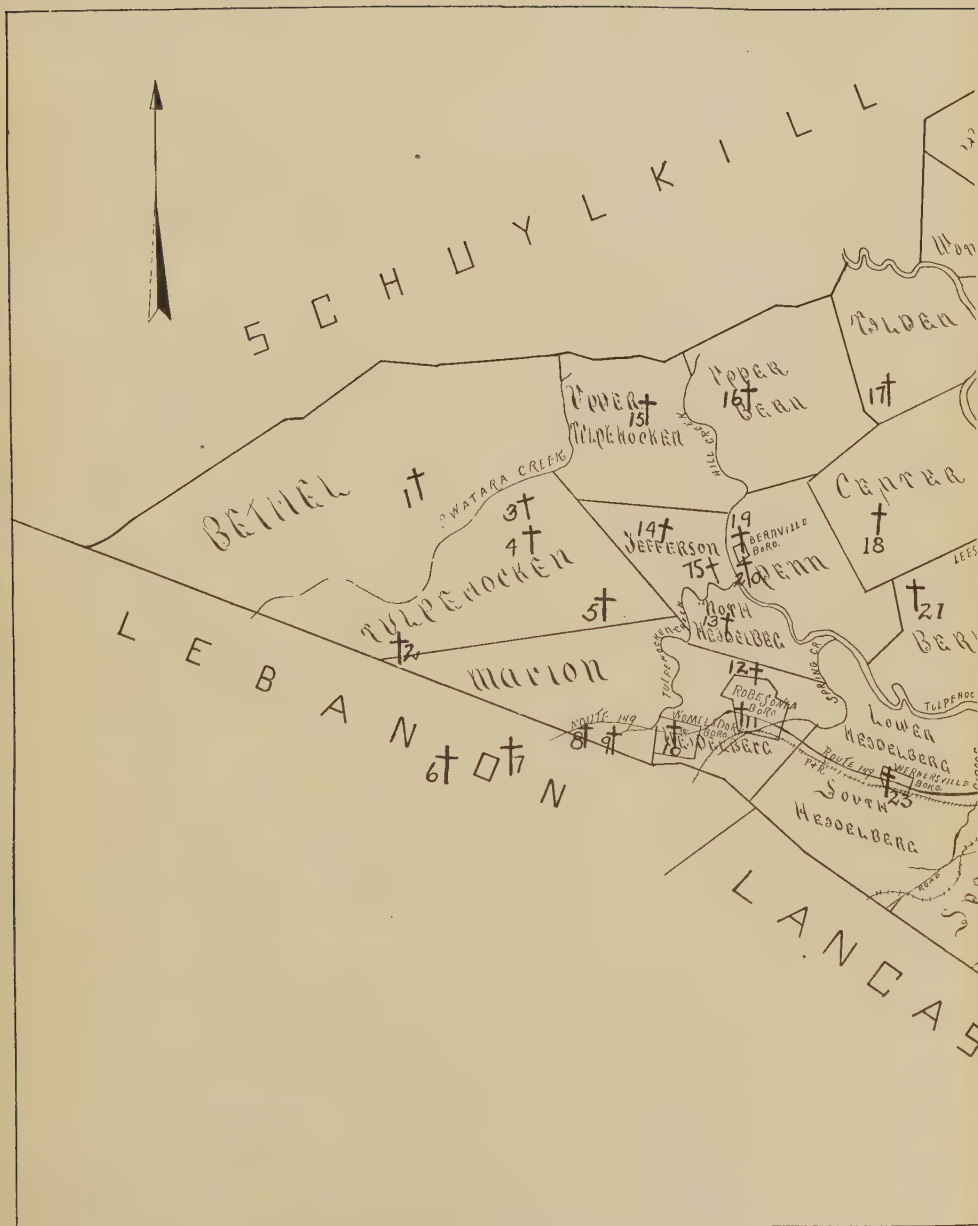


PROTESTANTS.
125,000.
CHRISTIANS.
150,000.

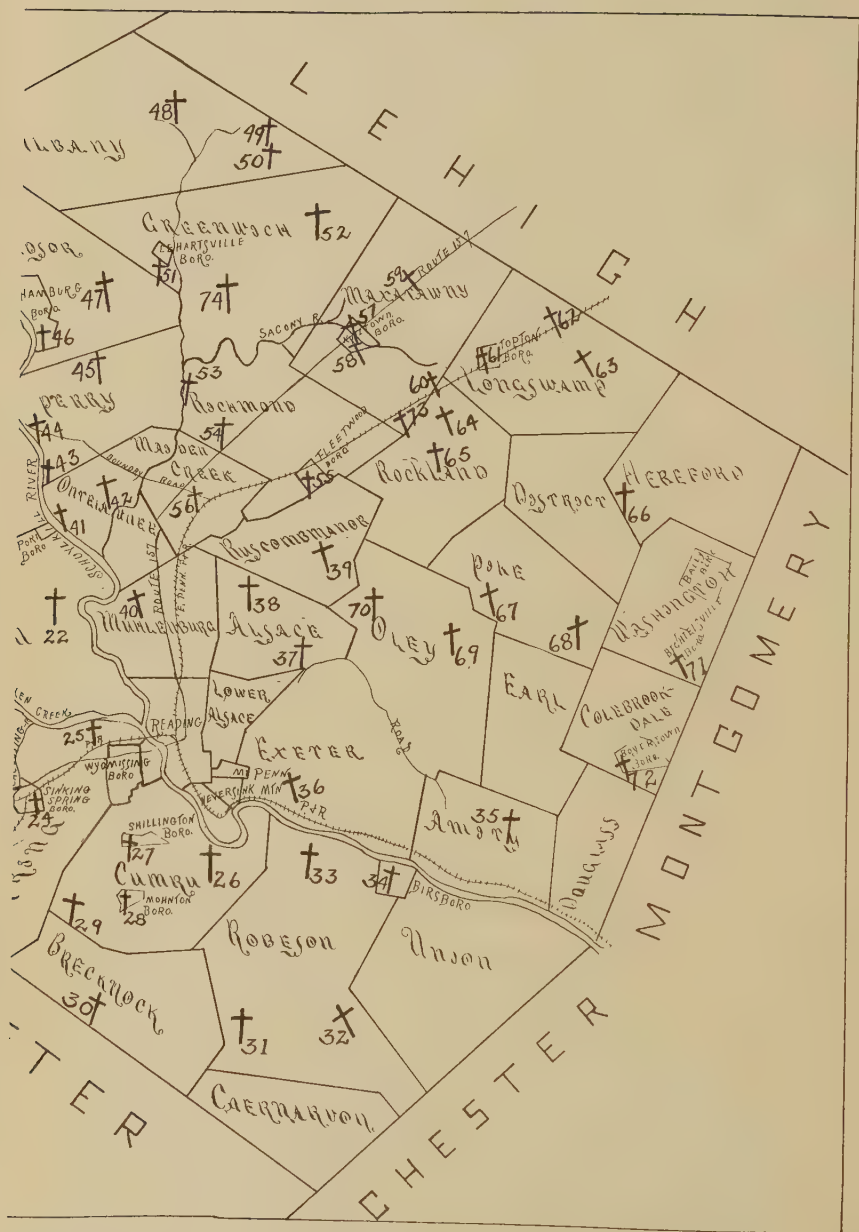
PROTESTANT BERKS.



LUTHERANS.
50,000.
PROTESTANTS.
125,000.



Map of Berks County showing location of Churches. See index or

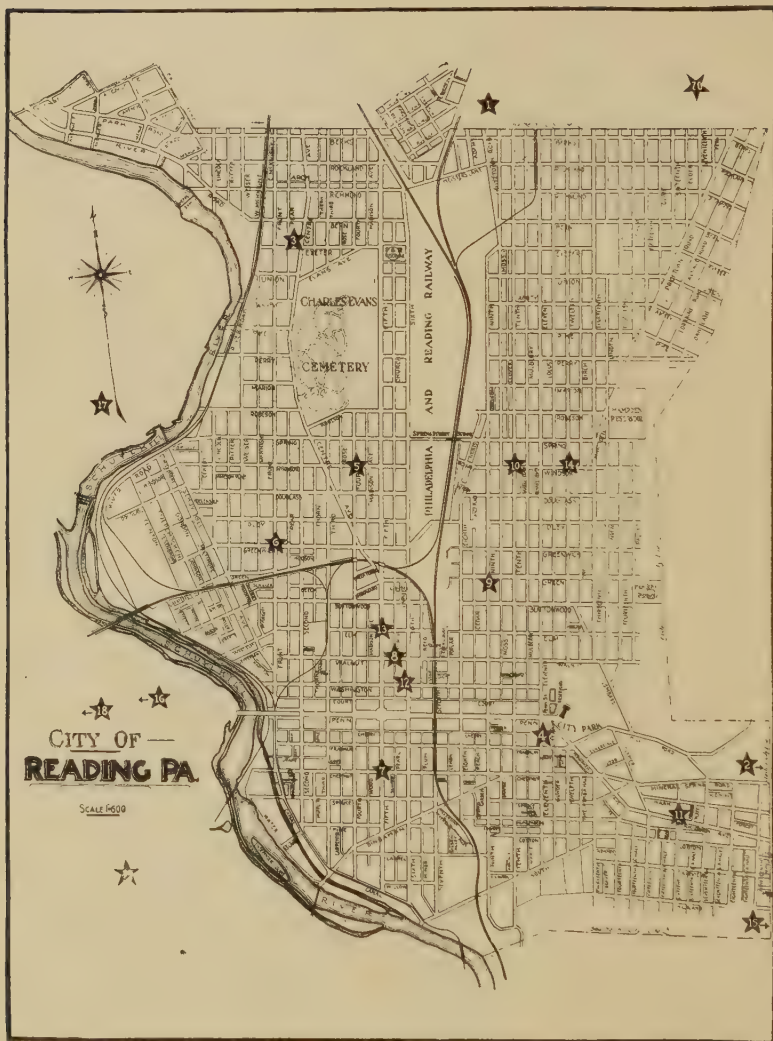


following page. For Reading Churches see next map.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

1. Salem, Millersburg.
2. St. John's, Mt. Aetna.
3. Rehrersburg Lutheran.
4. Trinity, Rehrersburg.
5. St. John's, Host.
6. St. Paul's, Milbach, Lebanon County.
7. St. Elias, Newmanstown.
8. Christ, Stouchsburg.
9. Zion, Marion Township.
10. Zion, Womelsdorf.
11. Trinity, Robesonia.
12. St. Daniel's, Heidelberg Township.
13. North Heidelberg Church.
14. St. Paul's, Tulpehocken.
15. Zion, Strausstown.
16. Frieden's, Shartlesville.
17. St. Michael's Church.
18. Belleman's Church.
19. Frieden's, Bernville.
20. St. Thomas Union.
21. Bern, Bern Township.
22. Epler's Church.
23. Trinity, Wernersville.
24. St. John's, Sinking Spring.
25. Kissinger's, Spring Township.
26. Yocum's Church.
27. Grace, Shillington.
28. St. John's, Mohnton.
29. Trinity, Gouglersville.
30. Allegheny's, Alleghenyville
31. Robeson, Robeson Township.
32. St. James', Geigertown.
33. St. John's, Gibraltar.
34. St. Mark's, Birdsboro.
35. St. Paul's, Amityville.
36. Schwarzwald Church.
37. Zion, Alsace Township.
38. Salem, Shalters.
39. St. John's, Pricetown.
40. Hinnerschitz Church.
41. Trinity, Leesport.
42. St. John's, Gernant's.
43. St. Timothy's, Mohrsville.
44. St. Luke's, Shoemakersville.
45. Zion, Perry Township.
46. St. John's, Hamburg.
47. St. Paul's, Windsor Township.
48. New Bethel, Albany Township.
49. Jerusalem, Albany Township.
50. Frieden's, Albany Township.
51. Frieden's, Lenhartsville.
52. Bethel-Zion, Grimsville.
53. Zion, Moselem.
54. Becker's-St. Peter's.
55. St. Paul's, Fleetwood.
56. Maiden Creek, Blandon.
57. St. John's, Kutztown.
58. Trinity, Kutztown.
59. Zion, Maxatawny.
60. Trinity, Bowers.
61. Trinity, Topton.
62. St. Paul's, Mertztown.
63. Longswamp Church.
64. Christ, Rockland Township.
65. New Jerusalem Church.
66. Huff's, Hereford Township.
67. St. Paul's, Pike Township.
68. St. Joseph's, Hill Church.
69. Christ, Oley Township.
70. Frieden's, Friedensburg.
71. Trinity, Bechtelsville.
72. St. John's, Boyertown.
73. St. Paul's, Lyons.
74. New Jerusalem, Greenwich Township.
75. Christ, Little Tulpehocken.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



MAP OF READING
Showing Location of Churches.
See index on next page.

INDEX TO MAP

1. Alsace, Kutztown Road.
2. Faith, Mt. Penn.
3. Peace, Riverside.
4. Grace, South Eleventh.
5. Holy Spirit, Fourth and Windsor.
6. Hope, Front and Greenwich.
7. St. James, Fifth and Chestnut.
8. St. Johannes, Walnut near Sixth.
9. St. Luke's, Ninth near Green.
10. St. Mark's, Tenth and Windsor.
11. St. Paul's, Sixteenth and Perkiomen Avenue.
12. Trinity, Sixth and Washington.
13. St. Matthew's, Fifth and Elm.
14. St. Peter's, Twelfth and Windsor.
15. Bethany, Stony Creek Mills.
16. Bethany, West Reading.
17. Christ, Glenside.
18. Atonement, Wyomissing.
19. Redeemer, Oakbrook.
20. Calvary, Rosedale.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Weiser, two Berks County Lutherans of two hundred years ago.

Conrad Weiser served as Church Councilman and as lay reader. A bronze tablet placed on his former home as shown on next page contains the following inscription: "Home of Conrad Weiser 1729-1760, Churchman, Counsellor, Soldier, Indian-Interpreter, Agent, Diplomat and First Judge of Berks County. Here were held many conferences with Indian chiefs, missionaries, colonial governors and leaders. Here were reared his children of whom the eldest daughter, Anna Maria, married Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the "Patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America."

Here he died July 13th, 1760 and lies buried in the family plot nearby together with a number of friendly Indian chiefs.

He so ably served the colonies as Indian-interpreter and diplomat that he is regarded as the pivotal man who brought this country under Anglo-Saxon versus Latin civilization.

"'Posterity cannot forget his services.'

"President George Washington."

Erected by the Blue Mountain Eagle Climbing Club and unveiled during the 200th anniversary of the settlement of the Tulpehocken Community, June 29th, 1923.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



Weiser home near Womelsdorf

Here Muhlenberg played the family organ and sang melodiously, listened to by the entire Weiser family but especially by Anna, the eldest daughter, whom he led forth from this home as his bride.



Weiser Graves

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



GOVERNOR JOHN ANDREW SCHULZE

Pastor of Lutheran Churches at and about Womelsdorf, 1796-1802; State Legislator 1806, again 1821; State Senator, 1822; Governor of Pennsylvania, 1823-1829.

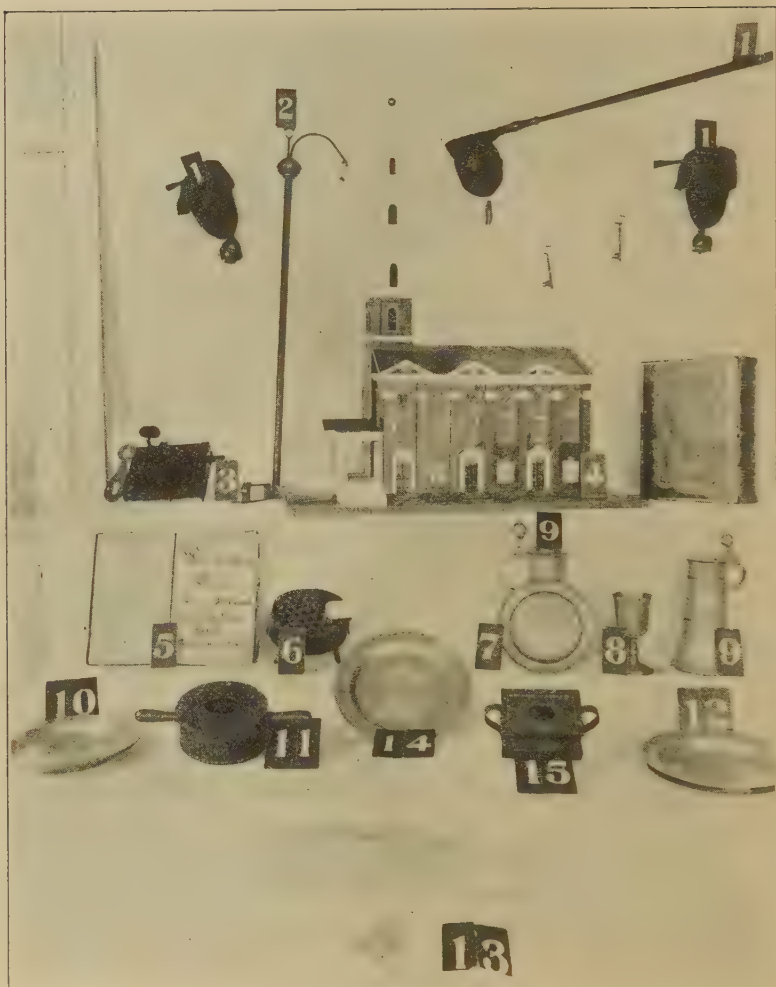
(See page 432)



MAYOR PETER FILBERT

Rev. Peter Filbert was pastor of Lutheran Churches in southern Berks, 1814-1829. First Mayor of Reading, in 1847.

(See page 401)



1. "Klinglesaecklin," jingling bags used to lift offering.
2. Gas jet lighter.
3. Old style German door latch and lock.
4. Model of Trinity Church, Reading, a type of architecture used generally for a certain period.
5. Church Record showing front page.
6. Foot-warmer used before stoves were installed.
7. Paten or plate for communion bread. Pewter.
8. Chalice or cup for communion wine. Pewter.
9. Flagons or containers for communion wine. Pewter.
- 10, 12, 14. Pewter offering plates.
13. Deed of Thomas Penn and Richard Penn for land of Trinity Church, Reading.
- 11, 15. Offering boxes carved out of wood.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

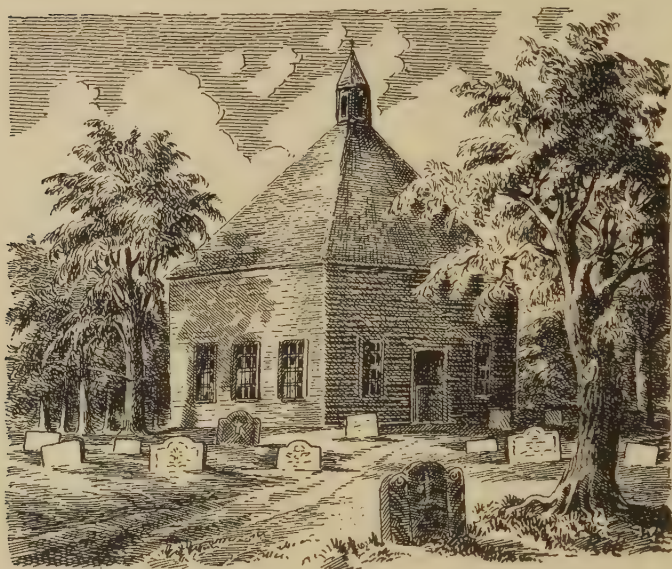
BEFORE 1700, Lutherans within the present limits of Berks County attended church services at Falkner's Swamp. The first Lutheran Congregation north of Falkner's Swamp was begun by the Swedes, at Molatton (Douglassville), in 1701. Swedish pastors were sent here until 1742. In the meantime several other congregations sprang up on what is now Reading Conference territory. Accordingly Berks County Lutheranism has a continuous history of two centuries and a quarter.

The early church buildings in this vicinity were crude and uncomfortable. They were usually small log or stone structures. Tiles or shingles covered the roofs. Where there were floors other than the bare ground, they were of paved brick. The seats often consisted of logs laid in rows. There were no stoves. Their introduction into churches about 125 years ago aroused serious opposition. In spite of these discomforts, the services were very long. The sermon itself was unsatisfactory, unless it lasted 2 hours. When the preacher came, at intervals lasting from one to three months, the devout were very eager to hear the preached Word. Frequently he lined out the hymns and led the singing.

With the settlements of those days widely scattered, pastors had to come long distances to visit their small flocks. Sometimes they were the first to cut trails through the pathless wilderness, while going on foot or horseback from place to place. Minnig's Path was named after the pastor who came across the Blue Mountains for many years to meet his preaching appointments at Strausstown. Occasionally worshippers would come all the way from Lyken's Valley to attend services at Tulpehocken. Rev. U. P. Heilman, in "Our Church Paper", gives an account of a resident in Oley who was in the habit of walking to Philadelphia to church and back, on Sundays.

Soon after the twenty-three families from the Schoharie Valley arrived in the Tulpehocken region, in 1723,

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



THE FIRST PALATINES' CHURCH AT NEWBURG, N. Y.

they decided to erect the Reed's church, which was complete in 1727. The piety of the early settler of Berks County was such as to call for immediate provisions for public worship, wherever a new community was established. From 1730 to 1750, the number of Lutheran congregations increased so rapidly that it was impossible to find enough suitable pastors for them all. While this eagerness for the preaching of the Gospel induced unworthy men to offer their services, it also appealed to devout ministers who came across the ocean to feed hungry souls with the bread of life. The firm foundations that enabled Berks County Lutheranism to weather the storms of centuries, without impeding its progress, were laid by European missionaries.

In 1728, John Casper Stoever, student of theology, and his son bearing the same name, but registering as a missionary, landed at Philadelphia. A year later the younger Stoever began his long career of gathering congregations, building churches, and starting church records. Among the congregations of Berks County founded by him, were: Little Tulpehocken, 1729; Hill, 1730; and Frieden's,

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Bernville, 1745. His work extended into Lebanon, Lancaster and York counties. He is reputed to have organized more congregations, during his 51 years in the ministry, than any other pastor of the Lutheran church in America.

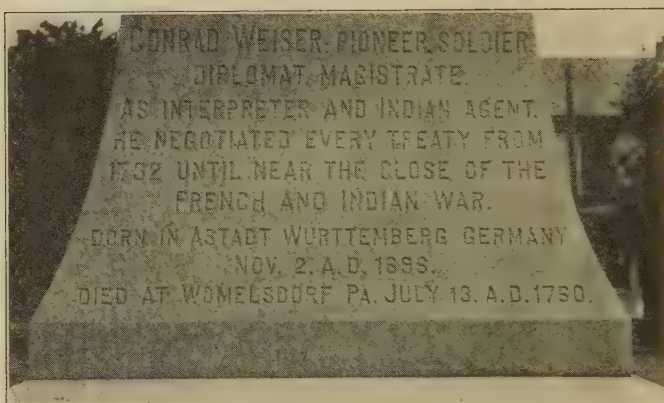


CONRAD WEISER MONUMENT AT WOMELSLORF

In response to the urgent appeals for pecuniary aid and pastoral oversight, Prof. Dr. Franke of Halle induced Dr. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg to embark for America, in 1742. As early as 1743 he visited Tulpehocken. Here he married, in 1745, Anna Marie, oldest daughter of Conrad Weiser. Thereby the life and family of the Patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America became inseparably linked with the history of Berks County. Of this marriage he wrote: "The Lord hath regarded my prayers and granted me a young woman who is pure of heart, pious, unpretentious, meek and active". On Muhlenberg's arrival, there were, besides those churches already named,

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Lutheran congregations at Alsace, Schwartzwald, Moselem and Allemaengel.



BASE OF MONUMENT

Other missionaries who came from Halle through the influence of Muhlenberg, were J. Nicolas Kurtz, D. D., pastor of Tulpehocken 1746-62, and his brother William Kurtz who assisted him and later preached at Robeson; Christopher Em. Schultze, from 1771 to 1809, pastor of Tulpehocken, Rehrersburg, St. Daniel's, Womelsdorf, Bernville, Little Tulpehocken and Schaefferstown; John H. Schaum, from 1760 to 1778, pastor of Hill, Lobachsville, Moselem, Ontelaunee, Maxatawny, and Rockland where his remains lie buried; John Voigt, pastor of Hill church, 1765-85. Muhlenberg's high regard for Halle induced him to send his three sons across the Atlantic to be educated there. Two of these, Frederick A. and H. Ernst, appeared frequently in Lutheran pulpits throughout Berks county. The former organized the Ministerium of New York, in 1774. He afterwards entered politics and became the first speaker of the national House of Representatives.

With the founding of Trinity church, Reading, in 1752 began the practice of connecting country congregations to form a parish with the town church. Trinity itself continued this practice for fully a century. It was followed by St. James', St. John's, St. Luke's, and still obtains at St. Mark's and Hope. Since the early beginnings of these

and other congregations had their origin in Trinity, it is known in Reading as the mother church. During the first century of their existence Christ church, Tulpehocken, exceeded Trinity, Reading, in importance. In those days, it was the mother church. Through the missionary zeal of its early pastors many congregations have been established.

During the French and Indian War, church buildings along the frontier were at times used to store provisions and ammunitions. In a few instances there were port holes in the walls through which the approach of marauding savages was watched and checked by rifle shots. St. Paul's, in Windsor Township, apparently suffered from Indian depredations, which is an indication that it was used for military purposes. After the war, appeals were made from that section for aid to erect a new church. At this time there were, outside of the Tulpehocken region, churches at Belleman's, Dunkel's, New Bethel and Allemaengel. All these suffered great hardships and members of the latter two were massacred.

The churches that appeared in Berks County up to 1760 were with a very few exceptions altogether Lutheran or Reformed. About that time the Union church became the habit. During the succeeding half century nearly all the purely denominational churches were made union as far as property rights and maintenance were concerned. No doubt the hardships and privations incurred by the French and Indian War made this step necessary in many instances. Union edifices were erected, at Amityville, in 1753; Kutztown, 1755; St. Michael's, 1769; Wessnersville, 1770; Hamburg, 1770; Spies, 1774. A few of the stronger congregations, notably Atoher, Rehrersburg, and Christ, Stouchsburg, always remained distinctly Lutheran. The first century of Lutheran endeavor in Berks County has 30 congregations to its credit.

The American Revolution put a very serious check on the organization of new congregations and the building of new churches. The loyalty of the Lutheran church to the cause of the Colonies induced them to stake their all in the long struggle for liberty. Peter Muhlenberg, oldest

son of the Patriarch of the Lutheran church in America, was a major-general and a member of Washington's staff in the continental army. "The Lord of hosts heard the cries of the distressed, and sent an angel for their deliverance", exclaimed Muhlenberg while rejoicing over the victory at Trenton. But the political upheaval that swept his own sons from the ministry into public life greatly affected the entire church. The year 1790, however, marks the beginning of a great activity in the Lutheran churches of Berks County. Within a quarter of a century after that date almost every Lutheran congregation in the county either helped to erect, or by itself built, a new church. A number of the edifices of that period are still standing as monuments to the liberality and churchliness of the Lutherans in this section a century and a quarter ago.

The great stream of Lutheran immigration during the 18th century, and the consequent inability on the part of the Church to supply them everywhere with spiritual ministrations, exposed many of the early churches to impostors. In their eagerness for some one to supply them with the means of grace, the people frequently accepted the proffered services of these men whom Muhlenberg in his reports called "vagabond preachers". With the exceptions of Gerhard Henckel, Tobias Wagner and Daniel Shoemaker, these independents were uneducated men and frequently without character. They accomplished little good and often created disturbances. At times they had control of considerable sections of the county. Fully half a dozen of them, under the leadership of J. C. Andraee, had formed an organization in opposition to synod. Much of the independent attitude and aloofness still held against synod, is an aftermath of their influence. Individual independents ordained men to the ministry as late as 1866. Applications by men thus ordained for admission into synod were rejected.

The scarcity of pastors often made the exceedingly large parishes, for which Berks County was especially noted, a necessity. These extensive parishes invariably overlapped and frequently extended into neighboring counties. Many congregations in Berks were served by

pastors residing far beyond its borders. Rev. Daniel Shoemaker at one time served 16 or more congregations scattered over three counties. Rev. T. T. Jaeger, who died in 1888, was pastor or regular supply of no less than 25 congregations in the central and western parts of the county. Up to 1900, Rev. B. D. Zweizig served 10 congregations. Others at the same time included from 6 to 8 congregations in their parishes. Indeed the unwillingness to have more frequent services and to agree to divisions of large parishes has for a long time stood in the way of changes. But in the last 25 years very commendable progress has been made in making parishes smaller and more compact. This with the telephone and the automobile enables the pastor, who is willing to live within the bounds of his parish, to be of immediate service to any of his parishioners.

Many distinctions have been lavished on Berks County preachers. Having been educated men generally, there was an abundance of honorary degrees of almost every description conferred on them. Quite a few of them were called to professorships in colleges and theological seminaries. A number of them became noted authors. Some entered politics and acquired national fame. Of the seven Seniors of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in its long history, four were Berks County pastors. These were J. N. Kurtz, Christopher E. Schultze, William Beates and Jacob Fry. Besides these, C. F. Welden, G. F. Jaeger, Conrad Miller, Jacob Miller, John W. Richards, F. J. F. Schantz, E. T. Horn and M. C. Horine also served as presidents of the Ministerium.

Some of the most eminent ministers of the early Lutheran church in America took their brides from Berks county families. Muhlenberg's marriage to Anna Maria Weiser has been referred to. John Casper Stoeber was married to Catherine Merkel whose father, Christian Merkel, resided in Rockland. Rev. Dr. J. N. Kurtz took to wife Anna Elizabeth Seidel. Their youngest son was for many years the influential pastor of the Lutheran church at Baltimore. One of the daughters married Rev. Jacob Goering who was known as a great preacher.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

The Lutheran congregations of Berks have given to the Church no less than 50 ministers. The first of these was John Andrew Schutze, who became governor of Pennsylvania. Among those who have spent all their years of service outside of the home county were: William M. Baum, D. D., born at Earlville, 1825, who served as president of the General Synod, 1873-5; Henry M. Bickel, D. D., born in Reading, 1827, pastor in Philadelphia and associate editor of the Lutheran and Lutheran Observer; S. A. K. Francis, D. D., born in Amity Township, 1839, pastor of Trinity church, Philadelphia, for nearly 50 years; Franklin S. Deitrich, born in Albany Township and died in India, 1889. Among the living are: Milton J. Bieber, D. D., Field Missionary in the Northwest; Levi F. Gruber, D. D., LL. D., St. Paul, Minn., author of "Creation ex Nihilo"; S. G. Trexler, D. D., President of the New York and New England Synod; A. L. Ramer, Ph. D., Superintendent of Slav Missions.

Fully one-third of the present pastors of the Reading Conference are natives of Berks. And twice that number are now laboring in the Lord's harvest field elsewhere. While the county is just about furnishing to the outside world the number of pastors that have come here from other localities, it will according to present prospects soon supply more preachers to the church than the Reading Conference itself needs. The prayers for more laborers in the Lord's harvest are being answered.

A number of prominent ministers of the Lutheran church, who had no charges in Berks County, resided here at intervals. Dr. A. R. Horne was principal of the Keystone State Normal School at Kutztown, 1872-77. Rev. Carl M. Jaeger, who served pastorates at Washington, Wilkesbarre, Pittsburg, Carlisle and Harrisburg, resided in Reading from 1869 to 1877. Frederick A. Muhlenberg, D. D., LL. D., great-grandson of H. M. Muhlenberg and grandson of Rev. J. H. Schaum, who was professor of Greek in the University of Pennsylvania and president of Muhlenberg and Thiel colleges, spent the last 8 years of his life

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

in Reading, 1893-1901. During this time he frequently preached in churches of this city and vicinity.

At least 4 languages, English, German, Swedish and French, were used in the Lutheran pulpits of Berks County. The last two named hardly endured beyond the middle of the 18th century. For more than a century, German was almost exclusively used at divine services by Lutheran congregations. The efforts to introduce English were in almost every instance bitterly contested. Serious opposition in church councils and divisions in congregations were often brought about by the language question. The city of Reading has a number of congregations that came into being through it. But gradually the English services gained the ascendancy. There is now no congregation in the conference whose services are all conducted in German. Approximately 75% of the churches have all services in English.

The churches throughout the city and county have been wisely located, with few exceptions. Fully half of them have a continuous history of more than three-quarters of a century. Some of the very oldest are still among the most vigorous. Here the unabating power of the Gospel is clearly evidenced. Berks County Lutherans have no serious country church problem. The few Lutheran churches that went out of existence here had insurmountable odds to contend with all through their history. The Molatton church fell into the hands of the Episcopalians. It is doubtful whether the Lutherans ever organized a congregation in the Episcopalian church, located long ago near Shillington, of which Hugh Jones gave them part ownership by bequest, in 1734. The small congregations that held forth at Womelsdorf, Strausstown and Pleasantville, could not long endure under the shadow of the older and stronger churches near by.

There are now 93 well established Lutheran churches in Berks County, with a total confirmed membership of 32,000. A more compact body of so large a number of Lutherans is hardly found in any other county in the United States.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

READING CONFERENCE AT LEESPORT, FALL OF 1931

Left to Right: Back Row: C. J. Cooper, D. D.; D. D. Trexler; S. L. Harbo; D. D.; W. W. Kramlich.
 Middle Row: J. W. Early; D. K. Hamberg; B. E. Kramlich; B. D. Zwolsky; J. J. Kneading; D. E. A. M. Weber; A. Finrock; W. A. Schaeffer, D. D.; B. S. Smoll.
 Front Row: J. J. Crookman; O. D. Miller; Z. H. Gable; U. P. Hellman; M. C. Harts; W. H. Myers; W. O. Cornman (standing).





READING CONFERENCE AT ST. LUKE'S, READING, APRIL 28, 1923

The Reading Conference

THE oldest organization of Lutheran congregations in the United States is the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. At its organization meeting held in Philadelphia in 1748 Berks county as now constituted was represented by two congregations, viz: Christ church, Stouchsburg, and Frieden's, Bernville. As the Ministerium grew in the number of congregations and the territory covered by them, it became necessary to divide them into district conferences. These conferences were at first numbered. Berks county congregations, within whose bounds lay the geographical and numerical centre of the Ministerium, and the congregations of Schuylkill county formed the Third District Conference. The marvelous growth from ten congregations in 1748 to 574 congregations at the present time with a baptized membership of 250,000 was attended with great problems of proper division of the congregations into districts.

In 1893 upon the wise suggestion of Rev. Jacob Fry, D. D., then pastor of Trinity, Reading, the congregations were re-districted and named after the chief city of the district. Thus it happened, thirty years ago, that the Reading Conference came into existence with its territory corresponding with the county of Berks.

In 1894 the number of pastors belonging to the Reading Conference was twenty-eight with an estimated confirmed membership of about 23,000. To-day there are 35 pastors with 34 parishes comprising 86 congregations. Four Lutheran pastors with a total of seven congregations in Berks county do not yet belong to the Reading Conference as they were formerly connected with the General Synod. The number of baptized members is conservatively estimated at 50,000. The confirmed number 33,000. Property valuations amount to \$2,500,000 according to parochial reports but replacement values would increase this amount to about \$10,000,000. There is a total debt of less than \$150,000. The conference meets semi-annually, with the pastors and a layman from each parish as the accredited delegates. The present officers are the following: President, Rev. R. B. Lynch; Secretary, Rev. W. S. Dry; Treasurer, Rev. J. O. Schlenker.

PARISH REGISTER

Location	Congregation	Pastor	Confirmed	Officers and Teachers	Scholars
Muhlenberg Twp....	Alsace	C. E. Kistler.....	1190	70	750
Amityville	St. Paul's.....	H. B. Ritter.....	369	22	167
Friedensburg	Frieden's	H. B. Ritter.....	401	25	142
Pricetown	St. John's.....	H. B. Ritter.....	67	15	82
Bechtelsville	Trinity	W. E. Wenner.....	175	20	310
Bern Twp.....	Bern	J. W. Bittner (Supply).....	329	8	98
Birdsboro	St. Mark's.....	W. F. Deibert.....	470	35	330
Geigertown	St. James'.....	W. F. Deibert.....	116	14	108
Bowers	Trinity	W. F. Bond.....	147	14	147
Hereford	Huffs	W. F. Bond.....	557	25	175
Longswamp Twp....	Longswamp	W. F. Bond.....	508	20	140
Rockland Twp....	New Jerusalem.....	W. F. Bond.....	348	19	165
Boyetown	St. John's.....	A. M. Weber.....	1245	66	807
Bernville	Frieden's	L. R. Miller.....	146	8	75
N. Heidelberg Twp....		L. R. Miller.....	26	8	40
Centre Twp.....	Bellemans'	L. R. Miller.....	400	12	175
Tilden Twp.....	St. Michael's.....	L. R. Miller.....	875	12	200
Greenwich Twp....	Bethel—Zion	J. O. Schlenker.....	346	8	80
Greenwich Twp....	New Jerusalem.....	J. O. Schlenker.....	188	6	80
Albany Twp.....	New Bethel.....	J. O. Schlenker.....	130	8	75
Albany Twp.....	Frieden's	J. O. Schlenker.....	180		
Hamburg	St. John's.....	R. E. Kern.....	683	39	451
Kutztown	St. John's.....	J. W. Bittner.....	592	18	360
Blandon	Maiden Creek.....	J. W. Bittner.....	210	8	106
Kutztown	Trinity	R. B. Lynch.....	349	18	190
Moselem	Zion	R. B. Lynch.....	244	10	85
Leesport	Trinity	E. E. Landis.....	119	7	50
Ontelaunee Twp....	St. John's.....	E. E. Landis.....	236	5	50
Bern Twp.....	Epler's	E. E. Landis.....	128		
Muhlenberg Twp....	Hinnershitz	E. E. Landis.....	348	5	100
Maxatawny Twp....	Zion	W. S. Dry.....	340	12	200
Mertztown	St. Paul's.....	W. S. Dry.....	300	8	100
Richmond Twp....	St. Peter's.....	W. S. Dry.....	220	7	150
Alleghenyville	Allegheny's	C. G. Heffner.....	331	15	180
Mohnton	St. John's.....	C. G. Heffner.....	303	39	437
Gouglersville	Trinity	C. G. Heffner.....	238	17	185
Mt. Penn.....	Faith	R. J. Heckman.....	131	19	150
Reading	Peace	R. J. Heckman.....	103	12	135
Reading	Grace	W. H. Myers.....	1080	52	550
Reading	Holy Spirit.....	C. G. Beck.....	553	45	560
Reading	Hope	H. W. Warmkessel.....	884	25	463
Pike Twp.....	St. Joseph's.....	H. W. Warmkessel.....	836	18	124
Pike Twp.....	St. Paul's.....	H. W. Warmkessel.....	190	10	84
Reading	St. James'.....	H. K. Lantz.....	567	45	350
Reading	St. Johannes.....	Ph. Kirchner.....	934	48	385
Reading	St. Luke's.....	W. A. Fluck.....	1510	62	810
Reading	St. Mark's.....	Dr. E. S. Brownmiller.....	679	31	425
		M. L. Brownmiller, Asst.			
Marion Twp.....	Zion	Dr. E. S. Brownmiller.....	70	18	90
Alsace Twp.....	Zion	Dr. E. S. Brownmiller.....	260		
Spring Twp.....	Kissinger's	Dr. E. S. Brownmiller.....	65		
Oley Twp.....	Christ	Dr. E. S. Brownmiller.....	270		
Reading	St. Paul's.....	M. H. Stettler.....	500	25	400
Reading	Trinity	Dr. E. P. Pfatfeicher.....	1371	74	674
Oakbrook	Redeemer	H. E. Herman.....	60	15	150
W. Reading	Bethany	W. O. Laub.....	356	46	294
Cumru Twp.....	Yocum's		282	32	176
Exeter Twp.....	Schwartzwald	W. O. Laub.....	478		
Shalters	Salem		140		
Shillington	Grace	Corson C. Snyder.....	171	22	263
Robeson Twp....	Robeson	Corson C. Snyder.....	252	22	120
Gibraltar	St. John's.....	Corson C. Snyder.....	325	10	169
Shoemakersville	St. Luke's.....	Wm. K. Fisher.....	193	9	92
Perry Twp.....	Zion	W. K. Fisher.....	397	11	90
Windsor Twp....	St. Paul's.....	W. K. Fisher.....	112	5	35
Lenhartsville	Frieden's	W. K. Fisher.....	118		42
Sinking Spring	St. John's.....	J. W. Lazarus.....	273	20	135
Wernersville	Trinity	J. W. Lazarus.....	104	18	110
Strausstown	Zion	I. W. Klick.....	389	27	250
Shartlesville	Frieden's	I. W. Klick.....	192	25	270
Rehlersburg	Trinity	I. W. Klick.....	90	12	140
Millersburg	Salem	I. W. Klick.....	136	15	160

PARISH REGISTER—(Continued)

Location	Congregation	Pastor	Confirmed	Officers and Teachers	Scholars
Jefferson Twp.	Christ	I. W. Klick	157		
Tulpehocken	St. Paul's	I. W. Klick	61	14	85
Stouchsburg	Christ	D. F. Longacre	290	7	40
Rehlersburg	Rehlersburg	D. F. Longacre	326	15	70
Newmanstown	Elias	D. F. Longacre	132	15	250
Milbach	St. Paul's	D. F. Longacre	48	2	20
Rockland Twp.	Christ	W. H. Kline	530	16	160
Fleetwood	St. Paul's	W. H. Kline	325	30	580
Topton	Trinity	W. H. Kline	208	22	220
Heidelberg Twp.	St. Daniel's	H. S. Kidd	766	18	75
Host	St. John's	H. S. Kidd	247	5	25
Robesonia	Trinity	H. S. Kidd	98	23	135
Womelsdorf	Zion	H. S. Kidd	367	27	200
Wyomissing	Atonement	J. L. Deaton	225	35	275
Calvary	Rosedale	J. L. Deaton (Supply) ..	128		
Albany Twp.	Jerusalem	A. O. Ebert	113	10	75
Mt. Aetna	St. John's	A. E. Youse	96	13	36
Reading	St. Matthew's	Dr. W. C. Dunlap	624	41	400
Reading	St. Peter's	Dr. W. B. Smith	121	13	280
Reading	Christ	O. O. Leidich	95	17	115
Stony Creek	Bethany	O. O. Leidich	126	35	197
Lyons	St. Paul's	J. I. Hummer	60	17	160
Mohrsville	St. Timothy	J. I. Hummer	56	22	180
Bermville	St. Thomas	J. I. Hummer	178	28	170



ALSACE CHURCH, READING

ALSACE, KUTZTOWN ROAD, READING

THE Alsace Churches are located in Muhlenberg Township, on an eminence along the William Penn Highway, just beyond the northern limits of the City of Reading. They present a rare sight to the thousands of tourists that are daily passing by. Perhaps no other two church buildings are so nearly alike in size, plan and building material as these. The Lutheran edifice stands about 150 feet north of the Reformed.

The first Alsace Church was a log structure erected about 1737 by the exiled Alsatian Protestants who settled here in 1735. From a prefatory note in "Rupp's 30,000 Immigrants", it is evident that there were evening services held in this little place of worship. Services were conducted in the French and German languages. It was a union Lutheran and Reformed Church.

On account of the poverty prevailing among the early settlers and the scarcity of regular pastors, tramp preachers were employed to conduct services. Among them, according to Muhlenberg's reports to Halle, was a notorious character named Streiter. This accounts for the absence of early records of ministerial acts. Soon after his arrival in

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

America, 1742, Muhlenberg visited the congregation. Rev. Tobias Wagner and Rev. John N. Kurtz were sent here by him as supplies.

In 1753, Alsace united with Schwartzwald and Trinity, Reading, in electing and calling the Very Reverend Master Henry Borchard Gabriel Wordman to the pastorate. Among the Alsace members who signed the call were Adam Reiffle, John Haberer, Theodore Baum, John Spengler and Henry Hahn. These were some of the founders of the Alsace Church. The Baum and Spengler families claim that their ancestors donated the land on which the churches now stand.

Rev. Daniel Shumacher, who at the time served Jerusalem in Albany Township, and congregations in Allentown and Easton, became the pastor of Alsace in 1754. He preached here during the period of the French and Indian war. That this district was spared the depredations committed by the savages in many parts of Berks County, is attributed to the fact that it was then considered a French settlement.

The plot of ground to the south of the church was the first, and the beginning of the present, cemetery. Owing to the many family burial plots located near the homes of the early settlers, there were comparatively few burials in the Alsace cemetery during the first 50 years of its history. The dates on the sandstone markers at the graves of John Theodore Baum, who died in 1762, and John Fischer, who died in 1763, are still legible.

About 1752 the little log structure was replaced by a stone edifice. It was during the trying period of the erection of this building that the Reformed congregation withdrew, and the money contributed by them toward the new church was returned to them. For nearly half a century Alsace Church remained distinctly Lutheran.

The congregation was a part of the Trinity parish, in Reading, from 1752 to 1850. During this period of nearly a century the children of Alsace had to go to Trinity for catechetical instruction and confirmation. Scattered throughout the Trinity records for that length of time are the entries of baptisms, confirmations, marriages and

deaths of Alsace Lutheran Church. Even the Church Councils elected by the congregation were obliged to come to Trinity for installation.

Distasteful as this arrangement must have been to the people of Alsace, it had its advantages. On account of it, the congregation is now privileged to number among its former pastors some of the best educated and most prominent ministers in the early history of the Lutheran Church in America. Rev. John C. Hartwig, founder of the first Lutheran Theological School in the United States, preached here for some time.

From 1758 to 1763, the learned Rev. Barnhard Hausihl, a graduate of the University of Strasburg and able to preach in many languages, was the pastor. During the Revolutionary war the pulpit was frequently occupied by Rev. F. A. Muhlenberg, who afterwards became the first speaker of the national House of Representatives.

Under Rev. Charles F. Wildbahn, whose pastorate ended in 1796, the third Alsace Church was built. It was a two story brick building, located where Grace Reformed Church now stands. The school room and residence of the organist, who also served as teacher, occupied the first floor. The church auditorium covered all of the second floor. This edifice stood until 1850.

Prominent among the pastors of this period were the Rev. Drs. Jacob Miller and H. A. Muhlenberg. Both of them were president of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. The latter was a member of Congress, declined a seat in President Van Buren's cabinet, and in 1838, became United States Minister to Austria.

Early in the year of 1850, the congregation voted to tear down the old edifice, which was "too small and frequently overcrowded", and to build a larger place of worship. Communion by the Reformed, March 29, 1850, and by the Lutherans on the following day, were the last services in the building. While the new church was being erected, the congregation worshiped in the white oak grove near by. At this time Alsace ceased to be a part of Trinity parish.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



THE FOURTH CHURCH

The corner-stone of the second brick building, which was the fourth church on that spot, was laid, May 9, 1850. Among the articles deposited in it, which were in good condition when removed 57 years later, were, a Bible printed in 1849, Luther's Small Catechism, the Heidelberg Catechism, a flask of communion wine, several small coins, a few local and Philadelphia papers, and a brief statement by the Union Church Council, in which it was stipulated that: "Nothing but German preaching, and none but German Lutheran and Reformed preachers, be allowed. Any pastor who is no longer satisfactory can be dismissed. This regulation applies also to the organist and school teacher". The Lutheran members signing this statement were George Spengler, Daniel Spengler, Jacob Heckman, George Fisher, Henry Spengler and Daniel Hahn.

In the face of many discouragements, such as the resignation of the pastor, loss of members, lack of general support, the building was completed in a little more than five months after the corner-stone was laid. By the aid of volunteer labor and hauling of building material, the cost of completing the new church was kept down to the incredibly low figure of \$4,000, in cash. Mr. Foos, a leading contractor of Reading, had charge of the work.

A few days before the dedication of the new church, the following advertisement appeared in the Reading Adler: "The newly built Alsace Lutheran and Reformed Union Church, will by the grace of God, be consecrated, on Saturday and Sunday, October 19 and 20, 1850. Divine services

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

will begin at 2 o'clock, Saturday afternoon, in the church situated in Alsace Township (Muhlenberg, since 1851), Berks County. Selling of intoxicants is strictly forbidden." The officiating pastors were Rev. A. T. Geisenheiner, Lutheran, and Rev. William Pauli, Reformed. This roman-
esque brick structure was then considered one of the finest church buildings in the county.

Rev. R. S. Wagner was pastor from 1851 to 1857. His first class was also the first Lutheran class confirmed at Alsace for nearly a century. In 1857 Rev. T. T. Jaeger became pastor. Up to 1864 the auditorium was heated with wood. At this time coal stoves, costing \$40, were installed.

From 1865 to 1873, Jacob Wicklein, whose ordination, Dr. C. W. Schaeffer, president of the Synod, questioned, occupied the pulpit. The trying experiences of the congregation resulting from this and other irregularities, induced both congregations to apply for a charter that allowed Lutherans only to vote for Lutheran pastors, and vice versa. Samuel Wentzel, Reformed, and David Clouser, Lutheran, were the first trustees under this charter.

In 1873, Alsace again became a part of a city parish, when Rev. F. K. Huntzinger of St. Luke's Church, Reading, was called as pastor. The congregation resolved to become a separate parish, in 1897. On the 13th of March, 1898, C. E. Kistler, a student of the Philadelphia seminary, appeared at Alsace for the first time and has preached there regularly ever since. The following May he received a unanimous call to the pastorate, which he accepted immediately after his ordination, June 6, 1898. In the face of a decided general opposition to separation of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations, he succeeded within 8 years to affect a complete and peaceable dissolution of the union organization.

To prevent rivalry, which in the end might prove to be very costly, it was decided at a joint meeting of the councils to build twin granite churches. Ground was broken for the Lutheran edifice, on Good Friday, March 27, 1907. The corner-stone was laid, July 21, 1907. Fully a dozen neighboring pastors were in attendance, and de-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

livered addresses to the large congregation that had gathered for the occasion. The last service in the old building was held, May 18, 1908, over the remains of Peter Keller, who was one of the oldest members of the Lutheran congregation.

On the 24th of May, 1908, one week before the new church was dedicated, the Alsace Lutheran Sunday School met for the first time. There were 354 in attendance. The Union Sunday School, of which the Lutheran school was a part up to the time of separation, began under the leadership of W. A. H. Pershing, June 2, 1872. On account of the feeble support it received during the first six weeks, it was reorganized, July 14, 1872, when D. S. Kline was elected superintendent. Books were borrowed from the Muhlenberg School Board. After expelling several teachers this Sunday School came to an end, on the third Sunday in December, 1872.

Serious objections by members against the meeting of the Sunday School in the church caused it to be abandoned for about five years. From 1877 to 1889 there was a Sunday School conducted by members of Alsace church, in Hyde Park. In 1889 the school was brought back to the Church, where it remained. With the exception of a few years, D. D. Becker has been its superintendent, until the congregations separated, when he became the superintendent of the Lutheran school, and has served in this capacity ever since.

Probably the most important congregational meeting of Alsace Lutheran Church, was held on the 26th of January, 1907, when the following officers and committees were elected: Elders and Trustees: Howard E. Ahrens, Garson M. Huyett, Joseph C. Frederick; Deacons: Fred J. Leas, Paul W. Leas, Jacob L. Wertz, Clayton Rissmiller, Charles Hirleman, and Robert Cunnius. Building Committee: Howard E. Ahrens, Joseph C. Frederick, William Border, Henry F. Kramer, James Folmer. Finance Committee: Garson M. Huyett, Fred J. Leas, Paul W. Leas, Charles Hirleman, Jacob Wertz, Robert Cunnius, Howard Wagner, William H. Moyer, Samuel Fehr and Thomas Schmeck.

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The contract for the building was awarded to the George W. Beard Company of Reading, Pa.

The new granite structure, which has a seating capacity of 750 in the main auditorium and 600 in the main Sunday School room, was dedicated on the 31st of May, 1908. The Rev. Dr. Theodore E. Schmauk, president of the General Council, preached the sermon. The Estey organ which could not be secured in time for these services was installed later, and consecrated, September 27, 1908. The Rev. W. H. Myers, pastor of Grace Church, Reading, preached the sermon. The 2,500 pound Meneely bell in the tower was dedicated, Sunday, April 20, 1913. The sermon was preached by the Rev. J. O. Henry. The entire cost of the building and complete equipment exceeded \$50,000.

During the 24 years of the present pastorate the congregation increased its membership fourfold. There are now 1,200 on the roll. The average attendance of the Sunday School is three times that of the former union school. The congregational income of last year was 15 times that of the union congregation 24 years ago.

ST. PAUL'S, AMITYVILLE

ALTHOUGH the Swedes were the first white settlers at Amity, yet they never left the banks of the Schuylkill, and Amity was chiefly settled by the Germans who located there as early as 1710, but not numerous until 1725 and 1752. The Germans were of various creeds. Some were Lutheran, some Reformed, some Moravian, and some were Catholic. For a long time they were without a pastor. In Douglassville the services were either in English or in Swedish, neither of which was understood by them. They were poor and could not afford to have a regular pastor nor build a church. The nearest church was at Swamp. It was nothing in those days to go to services at the Swamp in the morning and return for dinner. The Reformed also held to the Swamp, or to the Oley Reformed Church. Having so far to go to church, people sometimes asked German school teachers to read them a sermon on Sunday.

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Some of these teachers even preached offhand, but this was not satisfactory. Many of the people said they could read sermons at home. Others abhorred these teachers because some often undertook to baptize and to administer the Lord's Supper.

Thus opportunity was given for vagabond preachers who misbehaved in the old country and were deposed from the ministry, to come to Pennsylvania and set themselves up as preachers of good standing. The people, hungry for the Word, believed them, and some of them did great mischief. One Valentine Kraft, a Lutheran preacher, came over and made great boast of himself; but before long he was in the hands of the law.

Another by the name of Fritz, a Reformed preacher, preaching in DeLong's church one Sunday, went on the pulpit in a state of beastly intoxication, and announced his text, Matt. 16:24, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." He repeated his text with emphasis, and just as he came to the end he lost his balance and fell down the pulpit steps with the words, "Follow me," in his mouth. One of the Elders immediately arose; and, earnestly addressing the congregation, said, "No, brethren, we will not follow him." Fritz was forthwith dismissed. Other instances like the above might be given.

This state of affairs made the people long for better church services. Accordingly the people of Amity, Lutheran and Reformed, met in 1753 and resolved to build a log church at New Storeville (Amityville), and to secure pious pastors.

An opinion has prevailed that the Reformed congregation existed before the Lutheran. This is based on remarks of Rev. Boas, who came to this country about 1770. Muhlenberg in his report says that in the spring of 1754, he found a union meeting-house erected by the two congregations. It would seem from the report that a self-educated layman (name unknown) preached every three weeks for the Reformed and that Rev. Muhlenberg preached irregularly as time permitted for the Lutherans. Much

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ST PAUL'S, AMITYVILLE

will never be known because the records are imperfect, lost or unkept.

There is a stone in the old East End graveyard wall at Amity with this inscription:

1748 D L.
D G; P B; I S H;
P W; D W; D I R.

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D. L., probably stands for Daniel Ludwig; D G, for David Garrad; P B, for Peter Boone, or P. Boyer; I S H, for Jacob S. Hoffman; P W, for Peter Weaver; D W, for Daniel Womelsdorf; D I R, for D--- Rhoads. Such persons lived at Amityville in those days, except David Garrad, who lived in Oley. The fact that this stone in the graveyard wall bears the date, 1748, and also because there is a tombstone put up in 1742 makes it probable that there was a graveyard here before there was a church building. It is not likely that there were any disinterments at that time.

There is fair evidence to believe that there was preaching at Amityville in the houses as early as 1745, by Pastor Brunholtz and others, and no doubt these people



AFTER THE STORM

having no church clubbed together and laid out a burying ground to bury their dead. This may have influenced the organization of a union church in 1753 not a little.

The first church was built of logs. It stood east of the church that was demolished by the storm of June 11th, 1922. This log church was called a school and meeting-house. School was taught in it during the week and church services were conducted in it on a Sunday.

Eleven rods of ground (11 roods) were connected with this first church. This land, before the church was built, belonged to a Mr. Boyer. In 1794, the congregation purchased 3 acres and 36 perches of land from Philip Boyer for the purpose of erecting a new church and for burial

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purposes. (A deed is of record in Book 31, Page 593 that on August 12, 1791, the congregations bought two tracts of land, one of 2 acres and 37 perches, and the other of 9 perches which were held in trust for them by Mathias Rhoads and Henry Lehr.)

In 1795 the log church was torn down and a stone church 40 by 50 feet was commenced. It seated 500 persons. The corner-stone was laid, September 18th, 1795. Rev. Daniel Lehman preached a sermon on this occasion. The dedication took place on September 4th, 1797. The stone church cost \$3,325.00. The lumber was hauled from Orwig's mill, now Orwigsburg. The cedar shingles were hauled from Philadelphia. It became free of debt in 1816. In 1819, it was painted for \$160.00, and again in 1848 for \$212.00.

On February 14, 1795, the congregations made a compact that the services shall alternate and that if Festival Days, and especially if Easter should fall to a congregation for two years successively, the other congregation shall be entitled to it.

On June 17, 1817, an organ for \$889.77 was bought and paid for.

In the fall and winter of 1871 and 1872, a series of congregational meetings were held in which it was finally decided to tear down the stone church and erect a more commodious one of brick. Jonas Rhoads and Samuel Francis were appointed collectors; and the following constituted the building committee: John Francis, President; George Lorah, Esq., Secretary and Treasurer; Joshua Fulmer, David Harner, Daniel L. Rhoads and J. F. Guldin.

The old church was razed in May. John Sheeler, of Boyertown, was the contractor for the new. The corner-stone was laid August 12, 1872. There were present besides the pastors: Rev. Jacob Dubbs and Rev. L. Groh. The church was dedicated August 15th, 1873. Revs. C. Koerner, L. Leberman, J. Fry, C. Z. Weiser, N. S. Strassberger and G. Miller took part in these services.

This church was 52 by 81 feet, with a steeple 123 feet high. It seated 700 people comfortably. In 1875 the slate roof was removed and replaced by one of shingles at a cost

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of \$450.00. In June 1883, lightning damaged the steeple, the repairing of which, with a new copper lightning-rod and the outside painting of the church, cost \$500.00. In the summer of 1884, the bell which was cracked, was replaced by a new one for which the old bell and \$125.00 was paid. On June 25th, 1888, the gable end back of the pulpit was torn out to the square and rebuilt and other repairs and improvements were made. The committee in charge consisted of Wellington Gross, Jonas Rhoads, Henry B. Wagner and William Davidheiser. The total cost of these improvements was \$1,030.00. On October 7th, reopening services were held. The following spoke: Rev. O. H. Strunck, Rev. J. Freeman, Rev. G. B. Hancher, and the pastors, Rev. U. P. Heilman and J. H. Leinbach. The offerings amounted to \$77.00.

On June 16th, 1891, a severe cyclone completely demolished the sheds, 160 by 30 feet. These were replaced at a cost of \$400.00.

In 1839, a brick schoolhouse was built and paid for by subscriptions. This replaced the log meeting-house of 1794. A Sunday School was organized in 1839 by Ezekiel Rhoads and others and conducted in the new building, which was 30 by 36 feet and cost \$950.00. In July 1889, this building was razed and a chapel was erected in its place by the Amityville Union Sunday School at a cost of \$2,300.00. The Sunday School has an agreement with the congregations, which in substance among other conditions, provides that so long as the Sunday School uses the chapel for Sunday School purposes, the officers of the congregations shall in no wise molest them or interfere with them in the enjoyment of their rights as granted them in the agreement, that if the chapel remains unused for said purpose for one whole year, it shall become the property of the congregations.

In the spring of 1917 this chapel burned down. It was rebuilt at a cost of \$4,500.00.

A union Sunday School was organized at Weavertown on May 9th, 1867. It held its sessions at first in the public school at Weavertown, but in 1879 the school erected its own chapel. The chapel lot was given by William Lorah

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for one dollar. The chapel is 32 by 48 feet. It is a frame building and cost \$1,228.00. There is no Sunday School held in this chapel at present, although several attempts have been made by the Berks County Sabbath School Association and others to resuscitate it.

A union Sunday School was organized at Douglassville in 1884. It still functions. During the pastorate of Rev. H. W. Fitting the Sunday School was incorporated as a Lutheran Sunday School, and a lot was purchased adjacent to the public school in which the Sunday School has been conducting its sessions since its organization. No building operations for a Sunday School chapel at Douglassville have begun since the incorporation of the school.

An active union Sunday School exists at Monocacy. It



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was organized in 1868. It held its sessions in Reifsnyder's public schoolhouse. Mr. David Miller donated a half acre of land on which a frame chapel 28 by 45 feet was built. This was formally opened October 13, 1895. The original building cost \$770.00. This Sunday School now owns property which could not be replaced for less than \$5,000.00.

The Earl Sunday School was organized in 1862, but it has long since ceased to function.

An English Lutheran church was built east of the old stone union church in 1844. All services were conducted, in the union church, in the German language. As early as 1840 several members desired English preaching in connection with German, but the joint Vestry did not grant this. In 1848, however, regular English services, alter-

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nating with the German, were also held in the union church.

For many years this church building has been unoccupied, except by such who sought to spread their propaganda in the community. After some repairs were made to the building, it is now used temporarily by both congregations. The unrecorded deed, we are informed, states that the property of this English Lutheran Church "shall revert to the original owners." Here both congregations worship at present, because on June 11, 1922 a severe cyclone completely demolished the brick church, erected in 1872-1873. After several meetings of both congregations, jointly, it was decided to build a union church and that there shall be a common building fund "until the church is built and paid for."

Rev. H. M. Muhlenberg preached at Amity in 1753 and 1754 and irregularly for perhaps some more years. Rev. J. H. Schaum supplied the congregation in 1761. In



AFTER THE CLEARING

1762 and 1763, the congregation was poorly supplied. In October, 1763, the congregation petitioned the Ministerium for services every four weeks. The Ministerium did what it could. The few pastors nearby had their hands already full. The scarcity of men, the large fields, the small salaries, the troublesome Indians, the French and Indian war, and the American Revolution,—these were some of the causes for irregular services throughout the Churches.

The Rev. J. F. Frantz is the present Reformed pastor.

The following served the Lutheran congregation: Revs. John L. Voigt, from 1767 to 1769; Adolph von Gerresheim from 1778 to 1779; Christian Streit from 1783

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to 1785; John F. Weinland from 1789 to 1791; John F. Weinland (again) from 1796 to 1799; C. F. Wildbahn from 1799 to 1801; Henry A. Geissenhainer from 1801 to 1805; Fred Wm. Geissenhainer from 1806 to 1808; John P. Hecht from 1808 to 1813; Ernst Braunsius from 1814 to 1815; Jacob Miller from 1815 to 1818; Conrad Miller from 1818 to 1848; George F. Miller from 1848 to 1872; Charles Koerner from 1872 to 1881; U. P. Heilman from 1881 to 1897; W. U. Kistler from 1897 to 1904; Anson W. Lindenmuth from 1905 to 1910; Harry W. Fitting from 1911 to 1915; H. B. Ritter from 1915 to ---.

A parsonage was purchased in 1906, but the pastor paid rent for the privilege of living in it. It was sold in 1920 at a goodly profit.

There are three cemeteries connected with the congregations. St. Paul's Cemetery, incorporated in 1917, is controlled by a separate Board of Trustees.

Both congregations still retain their former prestige. Their membership is about equally divided. The Reformed congregation gave six of her sons to the ministry. Two of them are living. The Lutheran congregation had two, none of whom are active.

Note—See article on "The Church at Molatton" by the same writer.

FRIEDENS, FRIEDENSBURG

THE formation and establishment of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations in a union church building in the village of Friedensburg, Oley Post Office, originated in a desire of members of both denominations who resided in the northern and western sections of Oley Township, as well as in the southern and western sections of Ruscombmanor Township, as also on the part of some who lived in the eastern section of Alsace Township. These residents were members of the Oley Reformed (Salem's) and Oley Lutheran (Christ) congregations, and the Reformed and Lutheran congregations worshipping in Spies' Church. The Reformed congregation of Oley was served by Rev. Pauli, and that of Spies' by Rev. Augustus Herman, both identified with the independent movement

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FRIEDENS CHURCH

in the Reformed Church. The Lutheran congregation at Oley was served by Rev. Conrad Miller, and the Lutheran congregation at Spies' was served by Rev. Jacob Miller of Reading. Both Millers were tinged with "Independent" thought. These ministers were not too favorably inclined towards the establishment of new congregations, and hence did not encourage the project at Friedensburg.

January 1, 1830, the church people in and around Friedensburg met and concluded to erect a house of worship in their midst, and appointed the following building

committee: John Laucks, Henry Dengler, Gideon Schneider, and Abraham DeTurck. Church regulations were drawn up, the name "Friedens" was selected, and provisions were made for a schoolhouse,—“all of which interests are to be independent of synodical connection until the end of time.”

On January 5, 1830, a deed for 133 perches of ground was given in trust to Jacob H. Reiff, John Jaeger, Sr., Solomon Boyer and Abraham Haas. The ground was owned and the deed was given by Henry Dengler.

Early in the spring ground was broken. The corner-stone was laid on May 23, 1830. It contained a constitution of the congregations, a Bible, two catechisms (one of each denomination), a list of the civil officers of the time, a bottle of wine, and a few other things. Rev. John Guldin, Charles Herman, both Reformed, and Rev. John Knoske, Lutheran, were present at the corner-stone laying. English and German were spoken.

The church, built of stone, measured 35 by 45 feet, had galleries on three sides, and seated about 400 persons. The church was completed in 1831, and cost \$1,678.11½. Among the first contributors are found the names of Abraham DeTurck, Peter Knabb, Solomon Boyer, John Jaeger, Jacob Knabb, John Loucks, Henry Dengler, Francis Palm, John DeTurck, Samuel Hill, Jacob Link and Gideon Schneider.

After this church stood for 56 years, it was torn down. In the early part of 1886 it was decided to build a new brick church. Aaron Rhoads, Jacob Hoch, Charles Reiff and Henry Dellicker were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions and to serve as a building committee. Aaron Rhoads withdrew in favor of Joel Haas. Peter Glase was treasurer.

A draft of the building was made by Peter Helfrich of Reading, and the building under the immediate superintendency of Henry Dellicker, was pushed rapidly, so that the corner-stone was laid May 16, 1886. At this service, Rev. N. C. Schaeffer, D. D., preached in the morning and Rev. D. K. Humbert in the afternoon. The offerings amounted to \$149.66. The church was formally dedicated

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on December 18 and 19, 1886, when the following were present and preached: December 18, at 10 a. m., Rev. T. T. Jaeger; at 2 p. m. Rev. N. S. Strassberger; at 7 p. m. Rev. J. Stahr, Ph. D. December 19 at 10 a. m., Rev. E. S. Brown-miller; at 2 p. m., Rev. J Stahr, Ph. D. and at 7 p. m. Rev. B. E. Kramlich.

The offerings on this occasion were \$99.79. The church was entirely paid for before it was dedicated. The last \$500.00 were subscribed in church on the day of dedication, so that the congregations stood on their own floor and gave their own house to the Lord for His use and service. It cost \$10,190.06.

The first Lutheran pastor was Rev. Isaac Roeller from the East Penn Valley, and the Reformed were served by Rev. Fred Herman. It was a hard struggle for life. The older members had still a hankering for the flesh-pots of Spies' and Oley; while the younger ones felt a strong resentment for stepmother's treatment.

All through the 30's there was great attrition among pastors and people, caused by the growth of the sects. The older members became more reconciled to things spiritual, and the younger became more assertive. Finally, in the early 40's, they cast off the Miesse and Geissenheiner regime; and George Miller, the son of Conrad Miller, became pastor of the Lutheran congregation, and N. S. Strassberger became pastor of the Reformed congregation.

The pastorate of Rev. Miller was not so long. He was succeeded by Rev. G. A. Heinterleiter. Rev. N. S. Strassberger very soon made his congregation fall in line with the newly adopted (1846) constitution of the Reformed Church. He did this tacitly without formal acceptance by the congregation.

In 1854 on the 14th of August, Rev. Strassberger and supporters of both congregations had the church incorporated and the cemetery established and placed under the government of trustees. Some of the older independently inclined members were afraid of their liberties and thought they would be forced under the control of synods. The trustees were accordingly given freedom of control so as

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not in any way to interfere with worship or in the exercise of their free choice.

Here then Rev. Hinterleiter took the lead with the silent consent of Rev. Strassberger to formulate a new constitution and by-laws to take the place of the old. This new instrument was adopted about the year 1857 or 1858. It had been under consideration for several years and provoked some members to become alienated. Some left and connected themselves with other congregations. Rev. Hinterleiter was very determined and persevering. He bore the brunt of the criticisms and attacks.



THE PARSONAGE

Rev. Strassberger claimed to be loyal to the general laws of the Reformed Church and thus evaded the attacks; but during the controversy, he was compelled to resign because of duties in Pottstown and Amityville. He was also desirous of forming a charge comprising Oley, Friedensburg and Pricetown.

After Rev. Strassberger's resignation, the Oley congregation refused to fall in with any classical arrangement and elected an independent, the Rev. Sassaman Herman. This resuscitated some of the old independent spirit in the older members, who recalled Rev. Miesse who at this time declared himself through the Reading Adler as an independent minister. He served several years, and then resigned. He told his consistory that they should have

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nothing to do with either the Constitution and By-Laws of the Reformed Church or with the Union Constitution.

Under these conditions, Rev. Hinterleiter, nothing daunted, prevailed upon the Lutheran congregation to adopt a constitution for their use and practice. This old but thoroughly conservative Lutheran instrument is still in force. The writer wishes to make due acknowledgement for the above to Mr. James B. Leinbach, an Elder of the Reformed Church. (1919)

A Sunday School was organized in 1839 and was Union until about the time when Rev. Heilman's pastorate ceased. In 1863, Sunday Schools were also organized at Oley Furnace and at Link's schoolhouse. These existed for a decade or so.

The two congregations and the two Sunday Schools have their services and sessions in the church built in 1886, which building is 46 by 86 feet, with a steeple at its side 119 feet high. When all available space is occupied the church seats about 1,000 people.

The two congregations have enjoyed a slow but steady growth. There are about 600 members and are about equally divided. Each pastor has services every two weeks, with evening services every four weeks. The English language is employed mostly. The full liturgical services are used. Each congregation has its own treasury. The services are well attended. The organ is in front of the congregation, and the congregational singing is good.

Rev. I. S. Stahr has served the Reformed congregation since 1884.

The following is a list of the pastors of the congregation: Revs. Isaac Roeller from 1830 to 1838; Daniel Kohler from 1838 to 1848; A. T. Geissenheiner from 1848 to 1849; George F. Miller from 1849 to 1853; G. A. Hinterleiter from 1853 to 1866; Thomas T. Jaeger from 1866 to 1883; U. P. Heilman from 1883 to 1897; W. U. Kistler from 1897 to 1904; Anson W. Lindenmuth from 1905 to 1910; H. W. Fitting from 1911 to 1915; H. B. Ritter from 1915 to----

On September 15th, 1894, a Dorcas Society was organized at the home of Mrs. Frank Y. Kaufman. This society has proven itself a worthy helpmate to the cause of Inner

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Missions during all these years. A benevolent or Missionary Society has been in active co-operation with the Church since the pastorate of the Rev. T. T. Jaeger. (Feb. 19., 1871.)

A Junior Missionary Society was organized March 9, 1891. These societies were merged and are active as the "Friedens Missionary Society".

Friedens Lutheran congregation owns a parsonage, containing all modern improvements.

It has three sons in the ministry, Revs. David C., Roger C. Kaufman and Rev. Nathan Yerger.

ST. JOHN'S, PRICETOWN

EVEN prior to 1820, Lutheran and Reformed pastors from neighboring parishes conducted services alternately in the Dunkard's meeting house on Sunday afternoons. Since there were no churches at Fleetwood (1859) and at Shalter's (1860); a union church organization was effected in 1839. An acre of ground was purchased from John Haas for \$100.00 to erect a church and for a burial ground. William D. Hains, Abraham Haas, and Charles Detweiler comprised the building committee.

Work at the church was begun in March, 1839. The church was dedicated, September 4th and 5th, 1841. Rev. Jeremiah Schindel, Rev. Isaac Miesse, Rev. Isaac Roeller, Rev. Charles Miller, Rev. Charles Bossler, and Rev. C. G. Frederic were present. At the corner-stone laying the collection was \$83.00. The building cost \$3600.00 in cash. Some of the lumber was hauled from Allentown. In 1847, the church became free of debt. The bell cost \$143.40. It is not the old court house bell as was commonly reported.

The church is 45 by 55 feet. A steeple 8 by 15 feet and about 60 feet high is erected at the outer end, making the church 8 feet longer. The pulpit is in the base of this steeple. The audience room measures 18½ feet to the ceiling, with an end gallery. At the entrance there is a hall 9 feet wide the whole width of the building. The floor of the church slopes 20 inches towards the chancel. The whole church seats about 450 adults.

The union church organization was incorporated, April 18th, 1853. The act is signed by W. P. Schell, then speaker

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of the Assembly, Thomas Carson, speaker of the Senate, and William Bigler, Governor.

Some of the rules governing these congregations are that four trustees shall be elected by ballot on Easter Monday. These shall choose a treasurer, and he must give security. If a trustee is absent at two meetings without excuse, he shall be removed. Only male members, 21 years of age who contribute regularly to the church, can vote. The election must be announced two weeks previous. There are also four elders and four deacons. The treasury is in



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

common. Both pastors receive the same fixed salary. The services are conducted mostly in the English language. Each pastor has services every four weeks.

Mr. Charles Levan, a prominent member of the Reformed congregation, had willed \$1,000.00 to the church; and he, dying in 1881, the money was used to repair the church in 1882.

In 1885, resolutions, concerning burials, were passed. In 1888, one acre and 98 perches of ground was purchased from John Brown for a new burial ground at a cost of

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\$645.00. The total cost amounting to about \$800.00. Mrs. Charles Levan, left at her death in 1891, \$200.00 towards paying this debt.

There was no organ in the church before 1878, and the singing was led by a choir at which the chorister (Vorsinger) presided. The following led the singing before the congregations had an organist: William D. Hains from 1841 to 1848; David Brown from 1848 to 1852; and Daniel C. Weston from 1852 to 1878.

A Sunday School was organized and conducted in the Dunkard's meeting house until about 1864, when through the efforts of the Rev. P. P. A. Hoffman and others, it was transferred to the church where it has been ever since.

On September 20th, 1891, the 50th Anniversary of the church was observed with appropriate services. Rev. F. K. Bernd, Rev. Dr. Gehr, Rev. Charles Levan, a son of the Reformed congregation, Rev. Brensinger, and the pastors were present. Grand tributes were paid to William D. Hains, who organized the Sunday School and the Church; and to Charles W. Levan who conducted the Sunday School after Mr. Hain's death until 1873.

On September 25th, 1921, the 80th Anniversary of the church was observed. The church was renovated, memorial windows were placed, and other improvements were made at a total cost of \$1,560.17. The total receipts for these purposes were \$1,713.47. Rev. Anson W. Lindenmuth, Rev. H. W. Fitting, Rev. Thomas Bickel, Rev. George Lutz and the pastors were present.

Much credit must be given to "The Busy Bee Society," a young peoples' society affiliated with the congregations, for many activities conducive to the welfare of St. John's.

Ever since Rev. Geo. F. Spieker's pastorate ceased, the Third District Conference, which existed until January 1, 1894, supplied the pastors for St. John's, Pricetown. After the necessary steps were taken by the congregation, the Reading Conference at its spring meeting, 1919, regularly constituted St. John's, Pricetown, as an integral part of the Amityville Parish, after a period of 36 years.

"During the first decade, the congregations were considerably larger than they are now," says Rev. U. P. Heil-

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man. "We have now on the Lutheran side 125 communicant members. The Reformed have 85." (1891.) He also states that during the Civil War, the new measure preachers did the congregations considerable harm as far as the numerical strength of the congregations was concerned. At the present time, the combined membership numbers a little more than a hundred. They are about equally divided between the two denominations. There is slow but promising growth.

Before the church was organized, Rev. Jacob Miller on the Lutheran side, and Rev Charles Augustus Herman preached as opportunity permitted.

Rev. I. S. Stahr is the present Reformed pastor.

The Lutheran pastors were: Isaac Roeller, 1841 to 1845; Daniel Koehler, 1845 to 1848; J. M. Ditzler, 1848 to 1852; G. H. Hinterleiter, 1852 to 1867; Thomas T. Jaeger, 1867 to 1872; George F. Spieker, 1872 to 1883; U. P. Heilman, 1883 to 1897; W. U. Kistler, 1897 to 1905; Anson W. Lindenmuth, 1905 to 1910; H. W. Fitting, 1911 to 1915; H. B. Ritter, 1915 to the present time.

Rev. I. W. Gauker was a son of the Lutheran congregation.

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TRINITY, BECHTELSTVILLE

TRINITY Church of Bechtelsville is of recent origin. The church was organized to provide a place of worship for the members of Hill Church, who without any conveyance, found it a hardship to attend the mother church, and also to encourage the town people to greater activity. It was to be a union church and assisting the Lutheran and Reformed members were also Mennonite friends, who aided both in gifts and labors. The Mennonites were given the privilege of occupying the church on funeral occasions



TRINITY CHURCH

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and also of holding regular services when the church is not needed by the Lutheran and Reformed.

A building committee was appointed consisting of: Isaac Dierolf, Lutheran; Henry Geist, Reformed; Henry Stauffer, Mennonite. The corner-stone was laid on Whitsunday, 1886. B. G. Welder, a senior at the Philadelphia Seminary was the speaker. Rev. L. Groh and L. K. Evans, D. D., also took part in the service. The basement was dedicated October 10, 1886. Rev. J. J. Kline preached the sermon on Gen. 28:16 and 17. Rev. Groh and Dr. Evans assisted in the service. The organization of the Church was effected in Jan. 1887, with a communicant membership of 28. The auditorium was completed and the church dedicated on May 6 and 7, 1887. At this time Rev. W. J. Mann preached the sermon from St. John 11:28. Rev. J. H. Umbenhauer and L. Groh assisted. The first organ was dedicated on June 12, 1882. Rev. J. J. Kline preached the sermon in the evening on Ps. 33:2 and 3. This church is a neat two-story brick edifice with steeple and bell.

The first catechetical class was confirmed on Nov. 5, 1887. During the thirty years in which Rev. Kline was the supply pastor of this congregation, 158 persons were confirmed. Rev. A. S. Fisher, a son of the congregation, is pastor of the Tinicum Parish of the Norristown Conference. Rev. Kline continued as supply pastor until July, 1916, when he resigned because of ill health. His successor, the Rev. R. H. Ischinger was very successful, but remained only for a short time.

Rev. W. E. Wenner took charge as supply pastor on Easter, 1920, together with his labors as pastor of the Niantic-Sassamansville Parish. The Sunday School is large and well organized and attended regularly by Lutherans, Reformed and Mennonites. Various organizations with the Church function to encourage spiritual life and activity for the Church.

Many years ago the Reading Conference formed a parish, which included Hill Church, Lobachsville and Bechtelsville. This parish was not consummated because of continued local opposition so that to the present time this

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

congregation is one of the few Lutheran Churches in Berks County, which is served by a pastor belonging to another conference.

BERN, BERN TOWNSHIP

BERN Church is located on the main highway leading from Reading to Bernville. The first church built was exclusively by the Reformed. When the Reformed organization was effected is not definitely known. This may have been as early as 1739. The earliest baptism is recorded in that year. When the first building was erected is also not definitely known. In 1743 about 15 acres were surveyed by the Penns for the use of the congregation. In 1748 this land was conveyed to Henry Resier for Calvinists in Bern, Cumru and Heidelberg townships. About this time a log church was built on this ground and served the congregation until 1762 (1765 and 1775 are also given). At this time the building was replaced by a stone structure, which lasted until 1837. Through all of these years the church was exclusively Reformed.

The Lutherans on this territory were very likely members of Belleman's Church, which was organized in 1746



THE BERN CHURCH

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and of Frieden's, Bernville, which were distinctively Lutheran at the time. When the third church at Bern was erected in 1837 arrangements were made whereby the Lutherans assisted in the same and secured half interest. The Lutheran organization was effected the winter previous, in 1836, and a constitution drawn up and adopted by both congregations. The corner-stone was laid July 30, 1837. In the fall of the same year the new building was completed. It was a brick structure with balcony on three sides. The building contained three entrances. Two winding stairways led to and from the pulpit. The altar stood in front of the pulpit. In 1762 additional land was secured



THE THIRD CHURCH

from Henry Hiester by the trustees: David Brecht (Bright), Matthias Stoudt, Jost Hiester of Bern, Henry Spohn and Martin Arnold of Heidelberg. Another purchase was made in 1792, thus making the entire property about 20 acres. The trustees at this time were John Dundore, John Reber and Michael Stump.

This third building was used until July 9, 1917, when

it was torn down to prepare the way for the new and modern edifice that occupies the same spot. In the presence of a large concourse of people, the corner-stone was laid by Revs. M. L. Herbein and J. W. Bittner, the latter preaching the sermon. The church was dedicated Sunday, June 29, 1919, by the pastors, assisted by the Rev. G. D. Druckenmiller, president of the Reading Conference, the Rev. J. O. Schlenker, pastor of the Grimsville Charge, and the Rev. R. B. Lynch, pastor of Trinity Church, Kutztown, (Lutheran); and the Revs. J. R. Brown, Stuart Kramer, John Baer Stoudt, W. J. Kershner, and John K. Stoudt (Reformed). The new bell was dedicated July 7, 1918, by the pastors: J. W. Bittner and M. L. Herbein. An appropriate sermon was delivered by each. The new pipe organ was dedicated on Nov. 27, 1919, by the pastors. The sermon in the morning was delivered by the Rev. F. K. Bernd, pastor of the Maxatawny Lutheran Charge. In the afternoon an address was delivered by the Rev. Edwin H. Romig, Reformed clergyman from Reading. On Oct. 16, 1920 a new constitution was adopted, to which both congregations subscribed.

This church edifice is undoubtedly one of the finest in rural Berks. It is a brick structure with Indiana limestone trimmings, gothic in style, and has an annex for Sunday School purposes. The basement contains a commodious dining room. As we enter the main auditorium we at once notice that nothing was left undone to emphasize the sacredness of the place. Art glass windows, containing biblical scenes are used throughout. Two half size windows show fine figures of Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli. In the large window above the altar appears a life-size picture of Christ as the Man of Peace. On the one side of the rotunda is the sacristy and on the other the organ. The Sunday School room is separated from the main auditorium by shadelike curtains with painted biblical scenes. Thus the Sunday School room can be used in connection with the main room on special occasions.

This building cost \$50,000.00 with a debt of \$9,000 on the day of dedication. At the time the edifice was started there were no funds on hand. A Ladies' Aid was

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organized, the men becoming honorary members. This organization gave the impetus for the raising of funds. Nineteen campaign teams were appointed, who went out to collect funds and receive pledges. The building committee consisted of: Harry S. Kershner, (Treas.), Henry S. Field, Harry S. Baer, Lutheran; W. K. Heister, Cyrus Ruth, John A. Leib, H. K. Heister (Sec.), Reformed.

The Rev. M. L. Herbein is the present Reformed pastor.

The following ministers have served the congregation: George Minnig, 1837 to 1838; Daniel Kohler, 1839 to 1852; Thomas Theophilus Iaeger, 1853 to 1864; Aaron Finfrock, 1864 to 18---; Thomas T. Iaeger, 1870 to 1888; E. S. Brown-miller, 1889 to 1917, Feb. 5; J. W. Bittner, 1917 to----

ST. MARK'S, BIRDSBORO

LUTHERAN church history in Birdsboro dates back to 1873 when on Nov. 7 the first Lutheran church service was conducted in an old two-storied school-building which long since was torn down to make room for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Rev. Z. H. Gable, who had recently been called from the Scenery Hill Parish of the Pittsburgh Synod to the Geigertown Parish of the Reading Conference and who had assumed charge of his new field in August, 1873, conducted this service. Hitherto the Lutherans of Birdsboro retained their membership in nearby congregations, principally in St. Paul's Church, Amityville, and in St. John's Church, Gibraltar. St. Mark's Church was organized on Mar. 9, 1875, with 45 charter members. The new congregation was added to the Geigertown Parish and was served by Rev. Gable until his death on Dec. 15, 1909. The Geigertown Parish in addition to St. Mark's Church consisted of the following congregations: St. James', Geigertown; Robeson Church, Plowville; Allegheny Church, Alleghenyville ;Trinity Church, Gouglersville; and St. John's Church, Gibraltar. All of these congregations Rev. Gable continued to serve until the close of his earthly ministry. The first Church Council of St. Mark's was composed of the following: Elders, Samuel

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Rhoads and Henry Albright; Deacons, Jacob Brunner, Henry Heist, Samuel Nagle and Cyrus Rhoads.

The first church building, a brick structure without tower or vestibule, 40 feet by 32 feet, was consecrated on May 12, 1878. In 1886 a tower was built and a bell weighing 1875 pounds was purchased. In 1898 a Sunday School room, 30 feet by 22 feet, was built on the north side of the church. The Sunday School was organized in 1878. A Mite Society was organized in 1885. The Senior and



ST. MARK'S CHURCH

Junior Luther Leagues were organized in 1889. St. Mark's congregation showed a steady and healthy growth from the day of its founding so that at the date of the first pas-

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tor's death, 35 years after the organization, the membership numbered 220. This growth took place in spite of the great handicap which the congregation suffered through belonging to an immense parish of six widely scattered congregations and consequently of necessity receiving scanty pastoral attention.

After the departure of the first pastor a new era of development set in. He had labored faithfully and with marked success, but after his death his large parish was divided into two, the Robeson, Allegheny and Gouglerstown congregations being constituted into the Robeson Parish; and St. John's, Gibraltar, St. James' Geigertown, and St. Mark's, Birdsboro, being constituted into the Birdsboro Parish. Rev. W. F. Deibert was called from the Philadelphia Seminary to become pastor of the Birdsboro Parish and was installed in St. Mark's on June 26, 1910, by Rev. F. K. Bernd, president of the Reading Conference. Rev. Deibert made his residence in Birdsboro. Rev. Gable had resided in Reading during his entire pastorate. Thus with the size of the parish decreased by one-half, the pastor living in the very center of his parish and right in the midst of St. Mark's congregation, this congregation henceforth enjoyed advantages it never had before. Besides, conditions were ripe for a forward movement. Already several months before the new pastor took charge of the field the congregation had decided to enlarge its edifice. The outcome in fact was a building new throughout with the exception that the tower of the old structure was retained. The new church was also built entirely of brick. It consists of two sections after the plan of the former building. The church proper consists of a building, 80 feet by 40 feet. Attached to this on the north is the Sunday School building, 62 feet by 30 feet. Between these two rooms is a rolling partition making it possible to throw them into one large auditorium. A basement extends underneath the entire structure. The new church was consecrated on May 21, 1911, and together with the furnishings represents a value of \$30,000.

St. Mark's congregation now began to develop to an unusual degree in all lines. In 1910 the membership was

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230 and by 1922 it was 470. In these twelve years this congregation raised \$45,700 for its own purposes and \$8,300 for benevolence, or a total of \$54,000, an average of \$4,500 per year, a record before undreamed of. In 1911 the present constitution which is drawn after the model recommended by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania was adopted and the congregation was incorporated. In 1911 the Orphan's Homes Auxiliary was formed. In 1912 the Mite Society was changed into the St. Mark's Aid and Missionary Society. St. Mark's Brotherhood was organized in 1922. So great was the development in St. Mark's that in the fall of 1919 this congregation appealed to the Reading Conference to have St. John's congregation, Gibraltar, severed from the Birdsboro Parish in order that it might obtain more services and receive more pastoral attention. Inasmuch as the conference found a ready way to provide for St. John's this appeal was granted. Accordingly, Rev. Deibert's resignation of this congregation took effect in January, 1920. The Birdsboro Parish henceforth consisted of St. Mark's, Birdsboro, and St. James', Geigertown. Since this change the work in St. Mark's has been characterized by greater intensity.

A few words should be said of the part St. Mark's took in the World War. On May 2, 1917, through the cooperation of the pastor of St. Mark's with the Berks County Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Birdsboro Branch of the Red Cross was organized at a community meeting held in St. Mark's Church. The first two men from Birdsboro to volunteer for the duration of the war were Lutherans, one of whom was a member of St. Mark's. The first man from Birdsboro to be wounded in the War was the son of a Lutheran mother who belongs to St. Mark's. The first man from Birdsboro to sacrifice his life in action in the War was a member of St. Mark's. The latter two were also volunteers. In September, 1918, St. Mark's waged a campaign for the sale of War Savings Stamps to be donated to the Church. This sale amounted to 224 stamps whose maturity value was \$5 apiece. In October, 1918, when the influenza epidemic raged in Birdsboro, Rev. Deibert organized an Emergency Relief Committee among

the women of the community which did heroic and self-sacrificing work in providing food for the sick, nursing of the sick, and in rendering general service in the homes of the sick. This work was not only of Christian and humanitarian value, but also a patriotic asset in that critical period.

St. Mark's congregation gave one of her sons to the Gospel ministry in the person of Rev. William Marion Weaver who has served as pastor at Lunenburg and Halifax, both in Nova Scotia, but who is now located in Philadelphia as a missionary of the City Mission.

ST. JAMES', GEIGERS' MILLS

IN THE history of St. Mark's Church, Birdsboro, many facts involved in the history of St. James' Church, Geigertown (Geigers' Mills) were treated and hence they need only passing mention here. Ever since the coming into being of St. Mark's Church these two congregations have belonged to the same parish. St. James' Church dates its history from the holding of Lutheran Church services in Union School House of Union Township located about three-quarters of a mile from the present edifice. These services under the guidance of Rev. J. R. Focht, then pastor of Robeson and Allegheny Churches, came to be of regular occurrence in 1850, in the summer of which year a movement was started to organize a Lutheran congregation for this vicinity. A project to erect a new church was set on foot in the middle of the summer and on Christmas Day, 1850, the church was consecrated. The original church was a stone structure forty feet square, plastered on the outside. It was built on a plot of ground about an acre in extent, half of which was donated by George Zerr and half by Paul Geiger. Rev. Focht having moved to Westmoreland County in the fall of 1850, Rev. F. A. M. Keller, successor, was now in charge at the time of the consecration of the church. The record shows that 31 persons partook of the first Communion which was administered on May 4, 1851. The first Church Council was

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ST. JAMES' CHURCH

composed of the following: Trustees, George Wamsher and Jacob Wolf; Elders, John Wolf and Jacob Wamsher; Deacons, Jacob Zerr and Paul Geiger.

By 1866 this congregation had a membership of 66. At present it numbers a few more than 100. While the nature of the community never permitted this congregation to attain a large membership, it has always been loyally Lutheran, faithful, and devoted to its pastors.

St. James', like St. Mark's, Birdsboro, was never a so-called "union" church and always conducted all its services

in the English language, and also acknowledged its connection with the Ministerium of Pennsylvania from the beginning. The original constitution, which was drawn up by Rev. Keller, is a good and proper one and still in force. Rev. Keller also started the keeping of a complete and accurate church record, which has been continued to the present day.

In 1890 the tower was erected and a large church bell procured. In 1886 the horse sheds were built. These are now chiefly used to shelter automobiles. Recently a pipeless heater was installed in the church, an iron fence erected in front of the church-yard, and a cement wall built along the cemetery.

On June 6, 1920, St. James' Church celebrated the 70th Anniversary of its founding and the 10th Anniversary of the pastorate of Rev. W. F. Deibert. The entire day was devoted to the occasion and the church was three times filled with worshipers. Noon and evening meals were furnished on the lawn of the church. During the ten years of Rev. Deibert's pastorate, St. James' congregation raised \$1,500 for benevolence and \$3,500 for congregational purposes, or a total of \$5,000. In the spring of 1920 in the Half-Million Dollar Campaign for Muhlenberg College this congregation raised a higher per capita amount than any other congregation of the Reading Conference save one.

St. James' Church has thus far had eight pastors which have served as follows: Rev. Joseph R. Focht, 1850; Rev. Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg Keller, 1850-1863; Rev. Henry Seipel Miller, 1864; Rev. Aaron Finrock, 1864-1865; Rev. F. T. Hoover, 1865; Rev. David Kidling Humbert, 1866-1872; Rev. Zenas H. Gable, 1873-1909; Rev. Willis Franklin Deibert, 1910---

A few words more need yet to be said of Rev. F. A. M. Keller. He was one of the ablest preachers of his day and a hard worker, although a man of rather poor health. During the Civil War he manifested a shining patriotism as the following anecdote, received from an eye-witness by the writer will testify. On a certain Sunday while Rev. Keller was conducting services as per appointment in Plow Church, a courier, who had ridden on horseback from

Reading, entered the church and handed a message to the preacher. Rev. Keller read it and proceeded with the services, at the conclusion of which he requested the people to wait outside of the church for an announcement that he wished to make. This proved to be the reading of the courier's message, which was an appeal from the Federal Government for volunteers to join the Union Army. After reading the appeal distinctly and effectively, he supplemented it with a stirring and fervent patriotic address, the result of which was the immediate enlistment of a number of young men from his congregation. In 1862 at the time of the threatened invasion of Pennsylvania by Gen. Robert E. Lee, this patriotic pastor could no longer resist the promptings of his heart and accordingly himself enlisted that self-same year, but the exposure of military service was too much for his frail health and in March, 1864, he died. He reminds us of Gen. Peter Muhlenberg, the Lutheran Soldier-Preacher from Woodstock, Virginia, of Revolutionary days.

TRINITY, BOWERS

THIS now exclusively Lutheran congregation has its new brick church-home at the eastern end of Bowers, in Maxatawny Township, Berks County, Pa. Its organized life began September 25, 1859, when the Lutheran people of this community were granted the right and privilege to worship in the same building with "The Evangelical Reformed Church" in Maxatawny, which was one of the oldest congregations in this neighborhood, having been organized in 1759.

Two acres of land were donated by Peter DeLong and Jacob Sharadin to which another acre was given by Andreas Haak in 1764. These early pioneers were interested in Christian education. The deed of the first grant of land mentioned that a church and schoolhouse were to be erected on the original two acres, and the deed of the latter designates that the land was to be used for school purposes. From records consulted it is all but certain that the first pastor who served this then purely Reformed Church, was Philip Jacob Michael, who lived a short distance southeast

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from the village of Bowers on what is still known as "Der Michael Berg", i. e., "Michael's Knoll."

In 1759, our Reformed brethren erected their first house of worship. The building was of logs. In 1808 it was replaced by a stone structure which stood for 63 years. The third church was built in 1871. It was a brick edifice 50 x 70 feet with a chapel in the rear. In this enterprise the Lutherans fully cooperated with the Reformed with the result that the two congregations were drawn still closer together.



TRINITY CHURCH, BOWERS

At the corner-stone laying, May 14, 1871, a union constitution was adopted by the bodies. The document appeared in German and contained eleven articles, providing that the church and burial place should be used by both with equal rights and privileges, excluding from the pulpit all pastors of any other denominations; that each congregation should elect, call and remunerate its own pastor and elect its own Church Council, each consisting of two elders and four deacons; that one organist and one treasurer for both be

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elected jointly; that the schoolhouse and the land belonging thereto be used jointly; that no funeral service be so arranged as to interfere with the regularly announced services; that one church record be kept and the business be done jointly; that no pastor be allowed to conduct services unless he be ordained and either belong to the Reformed Synod of the United States, or to the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania. This constitution was signed by Rev. Alfred J. Herman of the Reformed Church and Rev. Simon R. Boyer of the Lutheran Church, together with the proper lay officials of both congregations. The document was in force for 29 years.



THE UNION CHURCH

On a clear and sunny afternoon, August 11, 1900, somehow the barn on the farm of Mrs. Leanda Trexler (of Lyons) located to the north of the village of Bowers, was ignited, and, though several fields' breadth away, with the East Penn Railway between, a spark from the burning building lodged on the shingle roof of the church and set

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it on fire. The few men not away at work and the women discovered the blaze immediately but were utterly helpless to extinguish it, so the large union house of worship burned to the ground. This catastrophe was naturally followed by a number of joint meetings of the Reformed and Lutheran congregations. It was finally agreed to dissolve the union and each congregation erect its own house of worship. The former reorganized under the name of "Christ DeLong's Reformed Church", and built its present church on the old location. The latter assumed the name "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church" and erected its present brick edifice on a suitable lot of about an acre donated by Mrs. Catharine Knoske, a faithful member and resident of Bowers. Her husband, Edward G. Knoske, deceased, was a son of the Rev. John Knoske, the organizing pastor of the sister congregation of this parish at New Jerusalem.

After some delays the corner-stone of Trinity, Bowers, was laid on August 25, 1901, by the pastor, Rev. D. K. Humbert, assisted by Rev. J. J. Cressman of Kutztown, and Rev. A. C. Schenck, of Topton. The usual articles: a Bible, the Hymn Book, English and German catechisms, newspapers of the day, both religious and secular, silver coins of the year, etc., were deposited in it.

The two Sunday School rooms, semi-circular in shape, were finished in 1903, and used for the services of the congregation, while the rest of the church was being finished. The church was dedicated October 7, 1906, by the pastor, Rev. Wm. F. Bond, assisted by Rev. F. K. Bernd, president of the Reading Conference, Rev. R. B. Lynch, Rev. J. J. Cressman, Rev. Prof. C. C. Boyer, Ph. D., all of Kutztown; Rev. J. O. Henry of Topton and Rev. George B. Smith. The last named is the present Reformed pastor. He delivered a congratulatory address and kindly presented the greetings of the mother congregation.

The church is of brick having a slate roof with a bell tower over the main entrance resting on its own foundation. The two Sunday School rooms are on the west side of the main auditorium on the same floor level. The combined seating capacity is 700. The edifice faces the south. The pulpit recess is at the north end having an appropriate

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memorial window of art glass picturing Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was donated by the late Rev. and Mrs. D. K. Humbert. The organ recess is on the left side of the pulpit. A robing room is provided on the right. The congregation, the main Sunday School, and the infant department respectively own an organ. The building is heated with steam and illuminated with electricity. The windows are all memorials. That facing the street cost \$500.00 and was donated by the Ladies' Aid Society. The basement under the entire building was recently cemented.

A beautiful, large star in the apex of the pulpit recess with bulbs of a variety of colors, indicates the number of young men who served their country in the World War. All of these eight were happily spared and returned home safely.

The Rev. E. H. M. Sell instructed the first class of catechumens on the Lutheran side. There were only two in the class, both young women, one of whom withdrew, the other, Mrs. Eliza Kern (nee Kerchner) undismayed continued, saying: "What I have begun, I am also going to finish." She has remained an active and steadfast member ever since. This same, resolute spirit has always been characteristic of the little flock.

The following pastors have served the congregation: Revs. E. H. M. Sell, 1859-1863; Alfred D. Croll, 1864-1867; Simon R. Boyer, 1868-1873; David K. Humbert, 1873-1903; Henry W. Warmkessel, assistant to Rev. Humbert; John W. Early, supply, 1903-1904; Wm. F. Bond, 1904 to ---.

Though the first class had but one catechumen to be confirmed, shortly after the Church was organized it numbered 60 souls. By 1873 the flock had increased to 80 at one Communion. In 1900 the communicants numbered 125, indicating a total membership of about 160 or 170.

In 1864 the graveyard was laid out in lots, and in 1889 an additional acre was purchased for its enlargement. The same is cared for by a "Cemetery Board" consisting of six men, three of whom are elected by each congregation.

Since the Board has been created July 18, 1906, additional ground for cemetery purposes has again been purchased. The old stone wall flanking the public highway

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

has been removed and a substantial iron fence erected. The City of the Dead is well kept.

The purely Lutheran Constitution of Trinity is well drawn up. It was adopted August 25, 1901.

On January 1, 1916, the mortgage indebtedness was finally cancelled. However, summer being more suitable for the members to gather from their distant homes, special, twofold thanksgiving services were deferred until September 2, 1916, when, at 9:30 A. M. and 7:15 P. M. a Harvest Home Festival and Debt Free Jubilee were observed. The pastor preached in the morning and Rev. C. E. Keiser, Ph. D., of Lyons, delivered the evening sermon. Rev. George B. Smith brought kind greetings and congratulations. The Hon. John Seidel, Judge of Columbus, Ohio, a son of the congregation, delivered a very acceptable address. Prof. J. C. D. Koch, presided at the organ.

Another event is worth mentioning, because it was of unusual local interest and effected Trinity as well as the sister congregation, viz., the 150th anniversary of the Reformed Church on Sunday, November 7, 1909. Among the celebrated speakers on this great occasion was the Hon. Judge Jacob S. Grosscup, of Chicago, who delivered a very excellent address. He was a native of this community, and while here, visited his birthplace not far from "Michael's Knoll". If these congregations have not produced sons for the Gospel Ministry, they may claim that they have brought forth honorable judges for our great country. At these anniversary exercises the humble pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church was invited to speak a word of fraternal greeting in the German language, to which he cheerfully responded.

HUFF'S, HEREFORD

THIS typical country church is located in the western part of Hereford Township, Berks County about 50 miles east of Reading, and about 15 miles southwest of Allentown. The nearest railroad stations are Alburtis and Shamrock, both about 5 miles north, and Barto about 5 miles south.

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The history of the Hereford-Huff's Church naturally divides itself into three epochs:—1. The Schoolhouse Period, about 1775 to 1815. 2. The First Church Period, 1815 to 1881. 3. The Second Church Period, 1881 to the present.

1. The Schoolhouse Period. Congregational life began here as early as 1760. Hereford and the surrounding territory were already well settled in 1745. Thomas Maberry now Mabry and his son and grandson operated the Hereford furnace as early as 1734. It was here that the first



HUFF'S CHURCH

wood burning cook stove was cast in America. A full sized granite monument, the raw material having been taken from the local Siesholtzville granite quarry, now graces the edge of the dam of Adam L. Wensch's mill, at the upper end of Forge Dale, near the church. The foundation of this marker, picturing the historic stove, is the crucible of the old Hereford furnace. The 100 to 150 men

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and their families connected with this industry lived within an accessible radius.

The earliest activities of the congregations centered in two schoolhouses. The first was a roomy stone building located near the present well. When erected, it is impossible to ascertain, but it was removed in 1853 or 1854. The second schoolhouse, also a stone building, stood near the triangle at the fork of the roads at the present church. Both were built under the auspices of the Church before the days of the public schools. One of the strongest proofs for an early congregational life is the old cemetery on the Rauch farm towards Seisholtzville. Unfortunately the oldest tombs here have field-stone markers without inscription. But the very fact that over 200 interments were made before 1815, points to very early church activities. Family Bibles, baptismal certificates, minutes of Synod, and the records of neighboring congregations inform us that our ancestors here were not without the Means of Grace during this early schoolhouse, missionary epoch. Whole classes of catechumens, instructed by students or assistant pastors, were confirmed in the older Lehigh Church near Alburtis by ordained pastors. The Revs. Jacob Friedrich Schertlein, Phillip Jacob Michael, Daniel Lehman, Doering, Wartman, and Dechant served these people during the early schoolhouse period.

II. The First Church Period. A better day dawned when the congregations grew strong enough to erect their first church. This was in 1815. The corner-stone was laid May 30, 1814. During this period records were kept, which are still well preserved. The articles of agreement, then drawn up, are still in force. The building committee was the following: David Rauch, Conrad Fegley, Jacob Gehris, and Jacob Fry. The trustees were: Conrad Fegley and Jacob Gehris, to whom land for the church was deeded, December 30, 1818, by Frederick Huff, Jr., and Barbara (Fink), his wife, for 5 shillings sold one acre, and 104 perches, which was part of a large tract of 339 acres and 133 perches, which Jacob Bower, Esq., High Sheriff, conveyed August 10, 1799, to Henry Hoffman, who with his wife Elizabeth, by assignment conveyed the same to Fred-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

erick Huff, on February 2, 1790. This was John Freedrick Huff, Sr., for the indenture goes on to state that he in turn sold, January 27, 1812, of this large tract 7 acres and 36 perches, together with other land, to his son, Frederick Huff, "partie" to our deed. Although 5 shillings are mentioned, to make the deed legal, it was really a donation to the congregation.

The church of 1814-15 was of stone, square in appearance, with square windows of small panes, high, with 3 galleries, and other characteristics of the old-time church. It had a "wine-glass" pulpit, with a sounding board over it. In 1865 the pipe organ was introduced and was erected by Edwin Krause from Palm. This first church was frequently repaired and remained in use until 1881.

III. The Second Church Period. About the time of the great National Centennial of 1876, the matter of erecting a larger house of God was upon the hearts of the members for the old church was too small, especially for funerals and festival occasions.

The iron ore industry in eastern Pennsylvania being at its height about this time, (Hereford Township has rich hematite ore deposits) there was a new influx of population and thus the agitation for a new church became greater than before and finally the enterprise was launched. The new and present church was erected under the pastorates of the Rev. D. K. Humbert and the Rev. Eli Keller, D. D.

With the stones of the old, the foundations of the new were built on the same location. The basement only was thus walled up with rough masonry. The new being so much larger than the old, all of the stones of the former edifice were not sufficient for the foundations of the present edifice. The superstructure was built of bricks. The dimensions of the church are 90 x 60 feet.

The church has a fine high steeple, containing a bell weighing 2,200 pounds. The entire cost of the building is estimated at \$20,000. Rev. Eli Keller, D. D., made a note to the effect that about \$3,000 of gratuitous labor was bestowed. The basement is divided into several apartments, a large room for the main Sunday School, one for the primary department, and a third for the meeting of

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the executive officers, instruction of catechumens, etc. This last named room has separate heating facilities.

The main auditorium is on the second floor, high in ceiling, with galleries on three sides and seating capacity for 1200 persons. The walls and ceilings are beautifully frescoed and embellished with life-sized paintings of Moses, St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John. In the pulpit recess is a portrait of Christ holding the open Book, showing the words:—"Wer mich bekennet vor den Menchen, den will Ich bekennen vor meinem himmlischen Vater,"—Matt. 10:32. In the lower vestibule the entering worshipers are greeted with these words, spread over a large rainbow curve: "Der Herr ist in Seinem Heiligem Temple. Es sei vor Ihm Stille alle Welt." Hab. 2:20.

The large marble corner-stone was laid June 5, 1881, the old corner-stone of May 30, 1814, having been placed underneath.

On November 27, 1881, the basement was dedicated. Rev. N. S. Strassberger preached one of the sermons. The collection on this day was \$90.

The new church was completed in 1883, and on Whitsuntide, May 13-14, it was dedicated. The Rev. L. Groh of Boyertown, then president of the Third District Conference, preached on Whitsunday morning; Rev. Dr. H. A. Keiser, raised in the community, in the afternoon; Rev. Augustus L. Dechant on Whitmonday morning; and Rev. G. F. Spieker, D. D., of Kutztown, in the afternoon.

The names of the building committee are found in large letters in the upper vestibule: John Rauch, John Geisinger, Charles N. Gery, Samuel Bittenbender.

Rev. James N. Blatt is the present Reformed pastor.

The following is a list of Lutheran pastors: Revs. Jacob Miller, D. D., 1814; Doering, 1814-1816; Wartman, 1817-1820; Conrad Mueller or Miller, possibly 1821-1828; Isaac Roeller, 1829-1861; Benjamin Elias Kramlich, 1861-1863; Alfred DeLong Croll, 1864-1868; Simon R. Boyer, 1869-1872; David Kidling Humbert, 1872-1902; Henry W. Warmkessel, assistant to the former during his last few years of service; John William Early, 1902-1904 (supply pastor); William Franklin Bond, 1904 to---.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

The united congregations celebrated their One Hundredth Anniversary on Reformation Day, October 31, 1915. The weather was fine and the people gathered in large numbers.

A society for young people is in a flourishing condition.

The Rev. H. M. Schofer of Aristes, Pa., and his brother, the Rev. J. A. Schofer, of Baltic, Ohio, are sons of this church.

LONGSWAMP, LONGSWAMP TOWNSHIP

WHAT is now known as the Longswamp Union Church was exclusively Reformed for about 100 years. The present edifice of the two congregations is located on the northern slope of the South Mountains about half a mile south of Shamrock Station. The Little Lehigh River has its rise in this territory. A goodly number of settlers were in these regions as early as 1734. The first came from Oley to the southwest; and from Goshenhoppen to the southeast. Most of them were members of the Reformed Church.

Rev. W. A. Helffrich, D. D. states that originally the name of the congregation was the "Little Lehigh Church". Thus the Rev. Father Michael Schlatter, pioneer of the Reformed Church, mentions it as such in his records. However, the name "Longswamp", as now applied to the Church, was introduced as early as 1762. This name is said to have originated from the fact that along the whole length of "Toad Run" (Krottecrick), a small stream of water flowing eastward from near Topton along this ridge, until it empties into the Little Lehigh; the land was marshy, and so the swamp strip was called the "Longswamp". Another story goes that a number of people by the name of Long or Lang owned this swampy land, and was called therefore Long's Swamp. This name was naturally contracted to "Longswamp". The present name "Longsdale" would seem to justify such a supposition.

It is said that the congregation was organized in 1748. The first church stood near where the present toolhouse

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

stands in the cemetery. The building committee consisted of Joseph Biry and Samuel Burger or Borger. Among those who aided in the work were Leopold Greber, Theobald Carl, Jacob Fenstermacher, Peter Butz, Johannes Fried, Nico-



LONGSWAMP CHURCH

laus Schwartz, Nicolaus, David and Peter Mertz, Heinrich Bolinger, Christian Ruth, Philip Burger, Nicholaus and Peter Keiser, Peter Walbert, Bernhard Fegeh, Heinrich Strickner, Jacob Lang, Heinrich Egner, David DeLong, Jacob Daniel, Yost H. Sassamanshausen who was said not

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

to have been a member, but contributed money and donated land. The church was built of logs, the interstices being filled with small blocks of wood and plastered over with clay. The seats were hewn planks. It is not stated whether the floor was of brick, of stone or the native earth. This building remained in use till 1791.

Preparations for a new church were made in 1790. There was some difference of opinion as to the proper location. This was finally decided according to an old Palatinate custom of the men throwing their hats to the point desired. The second church was placed somewhat further up the slope at a spot which lies within the present cemetery. The corner-stone was laid by Rev. Henry Haertzel or Huetzel on May 28, 1791. When completed it was also dedicated by him.

It was in this exclusively Reformed Church that the Longswamp Lutheran congregation was organized in 1817. At first for a given period the Lutherans paid a nominal rent. At the expiration of the term, the compact was renewed. When this was again to be renewed, a difference of opinion arose. Some of the Reformed themselves wanted the Lutherans admitted to equal rights. Others opposed it. The result of this feeling was that most of the Lutherans and a small number of the Reformed withdrew in 1837 and built a union church at Mertztown. Later the remaining Lutherans at Longswamp were given a right to the property and so the church became union.

In 1848, September 30th, and October 1st, the centennial was celebrated in this second edifice. It was the first one observed in the vicinity and was largely attended. The speakers were: Revs. Kessler, Eichenberg and S. K. Brobst.

The present, substantial stone edifice was placed a little higher up the slope than either of the two former ones. In the early part of 1852 the building of a larger church was agitated. To test the feeling of the people, Rev. W. A. Helffrich, then a young man, was appointed to solicit subscriptions. In a few days it was ascertained that the necessary amount could be raised. Arrangements were made to begin the work at once, and to complete it before the end of the year. However, on May 5 and 6, the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Lord's Supper was once more celebrated in the old church. The work of demolition began on May 7. The contents of the corner-stone were found wasted. On May 9, 1852, the corner-stone of the new building was laid. The ministers who took part in this service were: Rev. Jeremiah Schindel, Lutheran; Rev. Augustus Dechant and Rev. W. A. Helffrich, D. D., Reformed. On Christmas, the church was dedicated. On this occasion Revs. J. Schindel, S. K. Brobst, G. A. Hinterleitner, D. D., Lutheran, and Erasmus Helffrich, and, though not mentioned, no doubt also W. A. Helffrich, D. D., Reformed, took part in the services.

The new and now union constitution, dated May 6th, 1852, provides in Article 4, that "The landed property belonging to this church and schoolhouse, which (land) was formerly taken up by the Reformed as an original grant (per Yost H. Sassamanhausen) and to which a section was added later by purchase, as also the church that is now being erected, shall be and remain a joint possession by the Lutherans as well as the Reformed for us and our posterity, etc."

The church is a large one-room edifice, without basement, excepting for the heating plant, with deep galleries on three sides, and has a pipe organ on the west facing the pulpit. The location is so elevated as to give a full view of the East Penn Valley spreading itself out east toward Allentown, north to the Blue Mountains and west toward Kutztown and Reading.

During the years 1911 and 1912 the house of God was remodeled to the extent of \$5,550. The improvements included a gasoline lighting plant, since changed to electric illumination, and a new steam-heating system. A substantial concrete wall surmounted with a churchly looking cement fence was erected around the churchyard. The high steeple was a constant expense and cause of anxiety. Vibrating with storms, it produced leaks in the roof over the pipe organ, and was several times struck by lightning. Thus it was decided that the steeple should be replaced with a short, broad, substantial tower. From this tower the call of the sonorous old bell can be heard even farther than from the former steeple. Art windows replaced those

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



BEFORE REMODELING

of clear glass. The large window in the pulpit recess was walled up and a fine painting of the Ascension now adorns the once open space. The Ladies' Aid Society presented a handsome brass altar rail. The whole edifice has been painted externally, and frescoed and painted internally.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

The floors are covered with an excellent quality of carpet, and new pews furnish comfortable seats in the lower part of the church, and opera chairs in the galleries. The high ceiling, the long-type panel decorations and the proportions are all very pleasing. Best of all the acoustic properties are most excellent. The edifice has a capacity for 700 or more.

The rededicatory services were held on Whitsunday, May 26, 1912. The morning sermon was preached by Rev. J. F. Lambert, a classmate of the Lutheran pastor. The sermon in the afternoon was preached by Rev. George Stibitz, D. D., Professor in the Central Theological Reformed Seminary, at Dayton, Ohio. Rev. Frank P. Laros of Albur-tis, Pa., delivered the evening sermon. A dozen other pas-tors spoke at the Sunday School session and took part dur-ing the day.

There is a large and well regulated cemetery here, controlled by a board of trustees, elected by the two con-gregations. The congregations also own some 35 acres of land, much of it in timber. Each congregation has its own constitution modeled after the one recommended by its higher body.

Rev. William L. Meckstroth, is the present Reformed pastor.

The following is a list of Lutheran pastors:—Revs. Jacob Miller, D. D., 1817-1822; Conrad Miller, 1822-1831; Isaac Roeller, 1831-1837; C. A. Griebler, (candidate, li-censed in 1846) 1844-46; Jeremiah Schindel, 1847 or 8-1852; G. A. Hinterleitner, D. D., as supply, 1853-1857; Ferdinand Berkemeyer, 1857-1858 or 9; E. H. M. Sell, 1859-1861; Alfred DeLong Croll, 1862-1868, in April; Simon R. Boyer, from fall, 1868-1872; David Kidling Humbert, from fall of 1872-1903; Henry W. Warmkessel, assistant to Rev. Hum-bert for a few years. John William Early, supply 1903-4. William Franklin Bond, Nov. 1904 to---



NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH

NEW JERUSALEM, ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP

THIS is now practically a union church, though the congregation was organized originally as an exclusively Lutheran body, a daughter of Christ Lutheran at Dryville, a mile further north.

The village of New Jerusalem is situated three miles south of both Bowers and Lyons. The church is located on the right-hand side of the public highway leading on southward to Friedensburg and the beautiful Oley Valley. Tradition says that the village of New Jerusalem was named after the Church, and not the Church after the village. However, after a careful study of the earliest documents, the writer is of the opinion, that the settlement was named before the congregation was organized.

The reason as locally given for the withdrawal of a part of the membership from the Dryville congregation to form this one at New Jerusalem, is, that about 1840 the younger element of the mother congregation preferred a younger pastor, while the older people clung to the experienced and beloved pastor, the Rev. John Knoske. At

an election held the younger element won out, and the older people then withdrew. Suffice it to say that the congregation was largely organized for the convenience of the people and the neighborhood. The church at Dryville is and always was exclusively Lutheran. The desire on the part of many for a union church no doubt helped in the establishment of New Jerusalem.

This latter supposition is substantiated by a study of the original German constitution of New Jerusalem. It was ably drawn up, evidently, by Rev. Daniel Kohler, and starts out as a purely Lutheran constitution. The church was to be erected as an exclusively Lutheran house of worship in which the pure Word of God was to be preached according to the firm foundation of the Prophets and Apostles, and the Holy Sacraments were to be administered according to the institution, establishment and command of the Lord Jesus Christ.

There are ten articles all breathing a purely Lutheran intention; and yet, in the very preamble of this otherwise strongly drawn-up Lutheran constitution, provision is already made for a union church. "Wenn aber in der Zukunft die Nachbare und Brueder der Evangelisch Reformirten Kirche all hier zu einer Gemeinde sich bilden und einen Reformirten Prediger annehmen wollen, so soll auch schon der mit uns gleiche Gebrauch gestattet werden; wie auch gleich nach der Erbaung der Kirche, bei Leichen-Begraebnissen, jedem ordinirten Reformirten Prediger mit bruederlicher Liebe gegoennt werden."

Thus, the Reformed "neighbors" were provided with a church home. The corner-stone of the first church was laid April 20, 1840, on half an acre of ground donated by Andrew Schiffert. Afterwards two more acres were obtained from the Herbein farm and set apart for a cemetery. The following were present and all in their own hand writing signed the constitution. Rev. Daniel Kohler who seems to have taken a leading part in the organization of the congregation; Jeremiah Schindel, Isaac Miesse, Christoph Friedrich. The last two are bracketed together and noted as "preachers present at the corner-stone laying". The following were the officials of the church at this

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

time:—Building Committee, Ludwig Folk, Andreas Schifert, Wilhelm Klauser; Trustees, Friederich Bauer, Jacob Mertz, Heinrich Schlegel; Elders, Johannes Fister, Ernst Fox, Benjamin Wertz; Deacons, Gideon Angstadt, David Roth, Johannes Miller, Jonas Bauer, Andanas Walb, Jacob Schlegel.

The church was dedicated Saturday and Sunday, October 3 and 4, 1840. On Saturday afternoon the "preliminary sermons" were delivered by Pastors John Knoske and Daniel Kohler. The former used as his text, Exodus 40:9; the latter II Chronicles 6:40-42. The dedication proper took place on Sunday forenoon. The address delivered by Rev. Knoske at this time appears in full in his own hand upon the pages of the church record. At this service Rev. Jeremiah Schindel preached on Psalms 84:1. In the afternoon the pulpit was filled by Rev. Isaac Miese, a Reformed pastor.

The cost of the church was \$2151.53. By December 26, 1840, the debt had been reduced to \$877.39. Upon the aforesaid day, twelve men were elected to the Church Council. During the year of 1840, Pastor Knoske gave his salary of \$60.53 to the building fund.

A pipe organ was procured in 1858. The church was renovated in 1870 at a cost of \$233.50. The Reformed congregation was organized during the year following the dedication of the church. The present pastor, Rev. Isaac S. Stahr, has served since 1885.

The following is a list of the Lutheran pastors:—Revs. John Knoske, 1840-1846; C. A. Griebner mentioned in 1841-1842; J. Carl Schmidt, January 26, 1845, (possibly sent by Rev. Knoske); Daniel Kohler, January 1847-1850; John Grimm, mentioned in 1851; G. A. Hinterleitner, D. D., 1852-1866; Alfred D. Croll, 1867-1869; Simon R. Boyer, 1869-1871; David K. Humbert, 1872-1903; Henry W. Warmkessel assisted Rev. Humbert for several years; John W. Early supplied during parts of 1903 and 1904; and Wm. F. Bond, November 1904 to---

For sometime it was felt that the old church of 1840 was no longer adequate for the growing congregation and active Sunday School. The edifice needed repairs and

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

opinion was somewhat divided on whether to remodel and enlarge the old, or build a new house of worship. Another question arose, should each congregation build for itself, or join hands and erect a union church. Upon careful reflection the latter opinion prevailed. Thus on May 20, 1916, ten articles of agreement were signed by the officers of the two congregations to the effect that a new Lutheran church should be built, but that the Reformed should not be forgotten, that they should have the privilege of worshipping on the alternate Sunday in the new building as in the old; that the Sunday School be left undisturbed, but better provided for with a suitable annex and equipment; that all should contribute, as they were able, to the new church, but an account kept of the contributions, and, if at a later day the Reformed desired to build for themselves, their contributions should be refunded without interest, (the use of the church being their interest) with such proportionate deduction as the property may then have depreciated, leaving that decision to a committee of three disinterested judges. This was a happy arrangement and infused everybody with new life. The old church was removed. The good material was used in the erection of the new.

As soon as August 6, of the same year that articles of agreement were drawn up, the foundation was ready for the laying of the corner-stone. At this service on the Seventh Sunday after Trinity, amidst a large gathering of people, the following pastors participated morning and afternoon:—Rev. R. B. Lynch, Kutztown, Pa., president of the Reading Conference; Rev. A. E. Youse, Myerstown, Pa.; Rev. Charles E. Schaeffer, D. D., Philadelphia, superintendent of Missions of the Reformed Church, and the two pastors. In the corner-stone were placed:—the Bible, two catechisms, the constitution and by-laws, the articles of agreement, a year-book of 1916, coins of 1916, an American flag, a list of the officers and names of the building committee in addition to 177 names of people who each made a special donation.

The building committee consisted of Samuel B. Funk, Benjamin S. Sheetz and William B. Eckert, the last-named

having been chief mason. Ambrose Hoffman of Fleetwood was carpenter foreman. Architect Heilman of Reading prepared the plans.

The Sunday School annex stands on the east side of the main auditorium on the exact spot where the old church stood. The new church is built of native stone stuccoed. The main entrance to the church is through a stately tower resting on its own foundations. The building is heated by steam and lit with oil lamps. When the Sunday School room is thrown into the main auditorium, the church has a total seating capacity of 700. The sonorous old bell and the recently repaired pipe organ still give good service. All of the windows contain beautiful art glass. Labor and material to the amount of about \$5,000. were donated. All the donors could not possibly be mentioned. Suffice it to say that one presented the slate for the entire roof. Another sawed all the heavy timber, the finest of trees being cut for the heavy beams. The church was dedicated practically free from debt and was then valued at \$15,000.00.

The church was dedicated on Sunday, August 19, 1917. Besides the pastors of the two congregations, the following were present:—Revs. John W. Early, R. B. Lynch, Dr. E. S. Brownmiller, H. W. Warmkessel, Horace B. Ritter, A. E. Youse, W. H. Kline, Lutheran; and Revs. J. G. Dengler, George B. Smith and James N. Blatt, Reformed.

While the church was in process of erection, the congregations worshiped in the local town hall, but Holy Communion was solemnized in the Dryville Church.

The congregation has given two sons to the ministry: Rev. A. E. Youse, of Myerstown, Pa., and Rev. David H. Frederick of Audenried, Pa.

ST. JOHN'S, BOYERTOWN

AS EARLY as 1809, a preaching point existed, known as Boyers, which was assigned by the Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania to the pastor at Falkner Swamp (New Hanover). An organization was effected or in existence in 1811, known as the Boyertown congregation. The first official record is by the pen of Rev. Jacob Miller recording the baptism of Rebecca, a daughter of Henry and

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Elizabeth Sassaman, on June 30th, 1811, the sponsors being Henry and Sarah Boyer. Thus the name of the town and the congregation are linked together by the name of one of the founders of both.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, BOYERTOWN

The members of the Lutheran and Reformed denominations united in erecting a union church in 1811, on land donated by Henry Stauffer (another prominent family in local civil and church affairs), adjoining the Mennonite,

now West Philadelphia avenue. It was a brick structure, 50 by 40 feet, and was occupied jointly until 1872, when the Lutherans withdrew. It was torn down to be replaced by a new Reformed church, which was dedicated in 1876.

The first pastor of St. John's was Rev. Jacob Miller, D. D., who served to May, 1829, when he became pastor of Trinity Church, Reading.

Rev. Conrad Miller, a brother of the preceeding, succeeded him in the pastorate of the parish, which consisted of New Hanover, Boyertown, Hill, Sassamansville and Keeler's Churches. He died October 9, 1852.

Rev. Nathan Iaeger, the third pastor, served from 1853 to October, 1857. He was followed by Rev. Henry Wendt from 1858 to the close of 1864, when he became the superintendent of the Orphans' Home at Germantown. During his term the salary of the minister was \$200.00; that of the organist, \$35.00; and of the sexton, \$16.00, with services once in four weeks.

Rev. Abraham H. Groh was elected to the pastorate on Feb. 26, 1865, and served less than one year. His health was failing and he died soon after from consumption, at the age of 27 years. During his time the Swamp and Boyertown congregations were constituted a parish. The latter voted on this proposition on September 23, 1865.

Of the six former pastors of St. John's, Rev. Leonard Groh, D. D., served the longest in her history. He had supplied the parish of his invalid cousin, and was elected pastor on March 10, 1866. During his pastorate the parish and especially the Boyertown congregation made rapid strides. A new church was erected, more frequent services were held, the work of general benevolence put on a sound basis, the salary of the pastor raised to \$500.00 in 1872, and when the congregation separated from the mother Church to become self-sustaining, on June 25, 1886, the salary was made \$800.00 per annum. In 1891, Rev. Groh handed in his resignation to go into effect on April 1st. He was since serving congregations in Nebraska. For eight years he was a trustee of Muhlenberg College and for ten years the president of his conference.



THE UNION CHURCH

On May 6, 1869, the congregation decided to separate from the Reformed in the ownership of the union church. But all good things take time. On May 7, 1870, the congregation voted on incorporation, the articles of which were adopted on March 4, 1871, and approved by the court on April 22. On March 6th a building committee was selected, which consisted of Aaron Mory, Wm. Binder, Dr. T. J. B. Rhoads, Jacob Merkel and Jeremiah Romich. A plot of ground, 100 feet on North Reading avenue, 210 feet deep, was bought of Jeremiah Schaeffer for \$3,000.00. The building, 90 by 55 feet, erected thereon was dedicated on the 17th and 18th of August, 1872. The cost including organ, was about \$23,000. The congregation sold its one-half interest in the union church for \$2,000.00. In 1882 a steeple rising to the height of 172 feet was erected at a cost of \$2,000.00.

Rev. Charles C. Boyer, Ph. D., who had supplied the pulpit during the protracted illness of Rev. Groh, was elected on April 25, 1891. He organized an efficient Ladies' Aid Society on February 1, 1892. During his incumbency the Sunday School increased so rapidly that provisions had to be made for larger quarters. It was decided to build an addition to the rear of the church, 55 by 20 feet, the lower floor to be a primary room, the second floor to contain a pastor's study and Church Council room, the organ to be removed from the gallery to a space in the new part facing the congregation, at the left of the chancel, and other improvements. The building committee consisted of Dr. T. J. B. Rhoads, Wm. K. Grim, Jeremiah H. Romich, Joshua Bahr and Amos Hartman. The work was barely started when Dr. Boyer felt constrained to resign in order to fill a professor's chair in the Kutztown Normal School. His resignation took effect on July 31, 1893.



THE PARSONAGE

Rev. Adam M. Weber was elected pastor on September 30, 1893 and began his work on Nov. 5th. The church with its additions and alterations was rededicated on February 3 and 4, 1894. The cost was \$4,500.00. This amount, as well as the cost of the steeple, was collected by George R. Yorgey. During the summer of 1898, a parsonage was erected on North Reading avenue, about one-fourth of a block from the church. The cost was \$3840.00. The com-

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mittee that had charge of its erection were Jeremiah Romich, Joshua Bahr, Amos Hartman, Edwin Houck and Irvin Buchert. The congregation paid the first installment of \$1,000.00 on the property of the Orphans' Home at Topton, thus securing its establishment, and has been represented on its Board of Trustees from its founding by H. H. Reinert and the pastor.

Centennial services were held on June 25th, 1911, the same being the 381st anniversary of the adoption of the Augsburg Confession. Pastors Groh, Boyer and Weber officiated.

Three sons of the congregation have lately entered the Lutheran ministry—Ernest A. Weber, Elwood K. Schwenk, and Clarence H. Swavely. The latter is a missionary in India.

FRIEDEN'S, BERNVILLE

FRIEDEN'S congregation of Bernville was organized by Rev. John Casper Stoever in 1730 and was served by him until 1747 and again in 1762 and 1763 and in part until 1770. Rev. Stoever was succeeded by Rev. John Nicholas Kurtz from 1747 to 1762. The congregation was then served by Rev. Emanuel Schulze, Sr., 1770-1789 and by Rev. John Andrew Schultze, Jr., 1796 to 1802. His son Andrew retired from the ministry in 1806 and entering politics, eventually was elected governor of the state. Rev. John Knoske became pastor for one year, 1807 to 1808; Rev. Henry Remensnyder, 1808 to 1810; Rev. Daniel Ulrich, 1811 to 1839; Rev. Marcus Harpel, 1840-1845; Rev. J. C. Smith, 1845-1855; Rev. Charles Russ, 1856-1858; Rev. Hugo Grahn, 1858-1866; Rev. Thomas Steck, 1866-1868; Rev. D. D. Trexler, 1868-1876; Rev. J. J. Cressman, 1877-1901; Rev. C. E. Kistler, supply, 1901-1903; Rev. H. L. Straub, 1903-1905; vacant for 6 years, supplied by Rev. D. G. Gerberich, 1906-1912; united to Centerport Parish in 1912 with Rev. L. R. Miller, pastor, Dec. 15th, 1912 to present time.

In 1747, Rev. H. M. Muhlenberg administered the Holy Communion to this congregation as the congregation seems

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to have been without a pastor. The following is written in an old record under date of July 5, 1747: "Muhlenberg preached at Northkill in Bethel Township, Lancaster County (now Berks) on the Gospel of the Lost and Found Sheep, Luke 15. Baptized several children. Confirmed some of the young people. There was much deep religious feeling. Dispensed the Lord's Supper. In the afternoon hastened to another appointment 8 miles off to Tulpehocken to preach at 3 o'clock.



FRIEDEN'S CHURCH, BERNVILLE

When the first church was built cannot definitely be stated. It must have been some time after 1733. An old record states that Rev. Stoever began his labors in 1730 among these people but did not or could not take regular charge of the work until 1733, when he was ordained in a barn. This would show that in 1733 there was no church building.

But we have a record of the second church. It states

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that in 1791 the old church building was so poor and rotten that a new edifice was erected. The members being few and very poor, collectors were authorized to go to neighboring congregations to collect for the building of the new church.

Up to 1834 this church was entirely Lutheran. That same year the church was made union by 36 Lutherans and 16 Reformed, who it seems were ignorant of the instrument extant forbidding such a step. Old writings show that the ground was donated in 1745 by two Lutherans on condition that the church remain Lutheran forever. The following is the agreement in the form of a will, found among the old records of Frieden's Church, Bernville: "I the undersigned, for myself and my heirs and assigns hereby and by virtue of these presents promise that I will measure out an acre of my land where it is most suitable and convenient for the newly built Evangelical Lutheran Frieden's Church and I will pay for the same to the proprietor and this shall be a present from me and my heirs and posterity and so continue as long as this church remains on this spot and shall be called an Evangelical Lutheran Church forever; I hereunto bind myself and my heirs in 50 pounds of Pennsylvania currency. Witness my hand and seal this 25th day of December, 1745.

SAMUEL FILBERT. Seal.

Witnesses:

Rev. John Casper Stoever

Jacob Hartman

John George Haag

Albrecht Strause."

In May, 1897, the Frieden's Lutheran congregation decided to build a purely Lutheran Church on the old Lutheran ground, offering the Reformed congregation \$1,000.00 for a peaceable settlement. The Reformed also decided to build and purchased ground opposite the old church. They decided with a faction of the Lutherans to make the church union, which accounts for two Lutheran Churches in the small town of Bernville.

The present Frieden's Lutheran Church is entirely built of brownstone in Gothic style 50 feet by 70 feet,

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

and a chapel attached 50 feet by 38 feet, making the front of the church and chapel combined 88 feet. The seating capacity is 800.

NORTH HEIDELBERG, NORTH HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP

NORTH Heidelberg Lutheran and Reformed Church is the only church in the eastern part of North Heidelberg Township. The church is situated on land donated by Tobias Bickel in the year 1744. Formerly the people of this section attended Reed's Church. In the year 1744 the Moravian settlement in the eastern part of the township decided to have a church of its own. A log church was built on the lot donated by Tobias Bickel in 1744 and dedicated on November 4, 1744 by the Moravian Synod. On April 9th, 1745, a Moravian congregation was organized by Bishop Spangenberg. The members consisted of Tobias Bickel, George F. Bickel, Stephen Brecht, John Fisher and John Fisher, Jr., Frederick Gerhart, Nicholas Glass, John Graefer, John Zerbe and their wives and John Keller, widower.



NORTH HEIDELBERG CHURCH

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

A schoolhouse and parsonage combined was also erected and occupied by Daniel Neihart afterwards by Werner, Weile, Blatzer and Polk as teachers. Moravian pastors preached here regularly until 1830. Then a decline set in and only a few meetings were held. The Moravian congregation disbanded. No Moravian services are held at present.

In the year 1835 the Lutheran and Reformed congregations were organized at this place by Rev. Minnig, Lutheran and Rev. Miesse, Reformed, and again regular services were held. In 1864 the present church was built by the Lutheran and Reformed assisted by the Moravians who were still there. The church is a brick structure with a gallery and pipe organ. The cemetery is neatly enclosed, somewhat after the custom of the Moravians.

The following pastors have served: Revs. Minnig; J. J. Cressman; D. D. Trexler; C. E. Kistler; W. K. Fisher; and L. R. Miller, the present pastor since 1912.

During the summer of 1916 this church was extensively renovated and reopened for services on October 16. Rev. Dr. J. Max Hark of Lebanon, a Moravian pastor, preached the sermon. Rev. Dr. James L. Becker and Rev. H. S. Kidd assisted. Music was furnished by the Moravian Trombone Quartet of Bethlehem rendering effectively the old chorals of the Moravian Church. The Lutheran Church Choir of Womelsdorf rendered several suitable selections. The day was one of great happiness—the church having been reopened, the debts of renovation paid, and a trust fund of \$3000.00 raised for the maintenance of both the old Moravian and the new cemeteries.

The congregation on the Lutheran side is small but very active.

BELLEMAN'S, CENTRE TOWNSHIP



ALEM'S (Belleman's) Church is located in the southwestern section of Centre Township, Berks Co., Pa. Tradition has it that the name "Belleman's" was given to this church many years ago, because many members of that name belonged to the Lutheran congre-

gation. The name "Bellemans" is so well known among its members that many of them would not recognize the name "Salem's". Tradition has it that the first church was built of logs in the northwestern corner of the old cemetery. It is, however, definitely known that this church was built in the year 1746. An old German Bible belonging to this church has written on the fly-leaf, that it was



BELLEMAN'S CHURCH

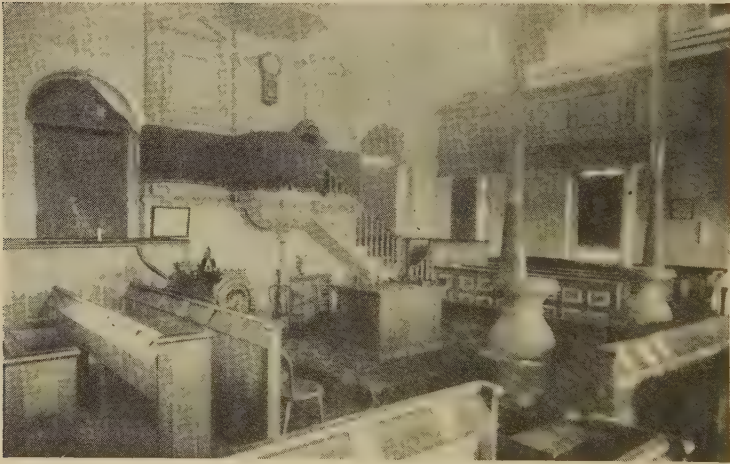
bought in the year 1767 on the 12th day of April, and paid for by 20 members of the Church.

On August 14, 1813, both the Reformed and Lutheran congregations met in order to decide whether or not a new church should be built. It was decided to build, because it was highly necessary. It was further decided that the church be built of stone. Only three votes were cast for a brick church. How it came about that the church which was erected was of brick is hard to understand. The following collectors were elected: Nicholas Klein, Casper

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Freeman, Peter Ludwig, Valentine Mochel, Philip Klein and Martin Wertman.

It was resolved that a constitution be drawn up and that Rev. Wm. Hendel constitute a committee to do so. The same was to be submitted to the congregation for adoption. The following building committee, three from each congregation was elected: Peter Ludwig, Jacob Himmelberger, Jacob Loose, Nicholas Klein, Valentine Mockel and Simon Wertman. It was decided that all hauling must be done gratis. Philip Klein and Daniel Wertman were



INTERIOR AS SEEN BY WORSHIPER

appointed to act as business agents, or financial secretaries, to supervise accounts, to give receipts, accept bills and keep strict account. The building committee was authorized to buy material, make contracts, so that the work of building might begin in the spring of 1814 and be completed by fall.

On September 11, 1813, the constitution of Salem's Church was presented which contained the following:—

1. The two congregations, Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed agree and obligate themselves to build and pay for the church.

2. Each congregation elects and pays its own pastor. No pastor to be elected by either congregation who does

not teach according to the doctrines of his own church and accompanies his teaching with a godly walk and conversation. Should either congregation elect an unworthy pastor who deviates from this standard, the other shall have the right to restrain him, and not permit him to enter the church. In no other way is either congregation permitted to interfere in the affairs of the other.

3. Alms money is to be handed to the deacon oldest in office for a period of one year, who shall then make settlement. Then the deacon of the other congregation oldest in office is to have charge of it for the next year and so on in rotation.

4. The teacher of the school is to be elected jointly and paid by both congregations.

5. In case of funerals, not knowing which of the two died first, the older shall have preference, or both may be buried together, i. e., at the same time by the same pastor.

6. Each congregation is to have one elder and two deacons, the latter to be elected every two years but the former every four years.

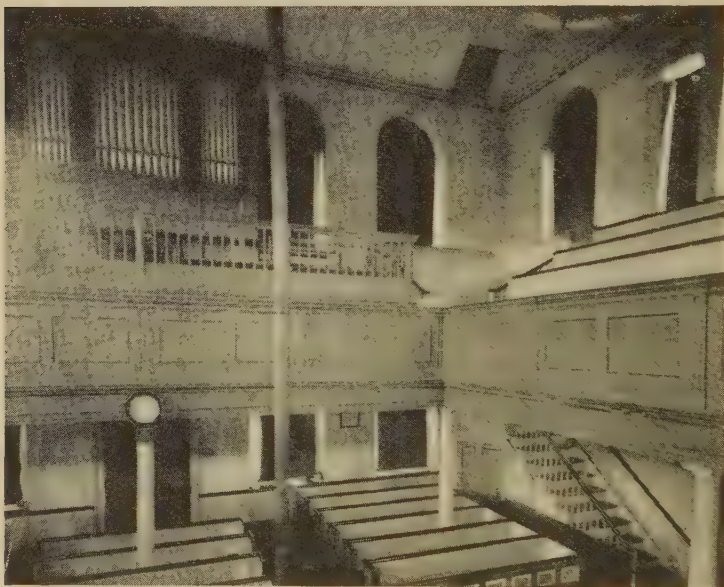
7. Unanimously resolved by the congregations that order and discipline according to the teaching of Christ be maintained. This to be in force for both congregations until amended or rescinded by a majority of both congregations.

On August 27, 1820, Valentine Auge of Moselem was elected by the congregations. The following items were agreed upon:—Tuition 50c per scholar; \$60.00 annually for playing organ, i. e., \$30.00 in cash and the other half in produce at Reading market prices; sufficient feed for one cow to be brought well cured; sufficient firewood for school and family use; the congregations to plow and seed the farm, haul the manure and keep the fences in good repair. The teacher offered to cultivate the land himself, if he were given 1 bushel of oats and 1 or more bundles of straw to keep a horse. To this all agreed. Mr. Auge obligated himself to perform his duties faithfully.

It is unfortunate that no correct data can be found as to who were the early pastors of this Church. It seems

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

from the fragmentary records, that Frederick Mayor or Moyer, preached here for many years before 1813; that he was followed by Rev. Chas. G. Strein, who was followed by Rev. Carl Ph. Mueller, followed by Rev. Thomas Iaeger. In the year 1862 the Rev. B. D. Zweizig took charge of the congregation and preached for 39 years, until 1901. On April 1, 1901, the Rev. D. G. Gerberich became the pastor and continued his labors until April 1, 1912. On December 15, 1912, Rev. L. R. Miller, the present pastor, took charge.



INTERIOR AS SEEN BY PASTOR

On June 6, 1915, the one hundredth anniversary of the building of the present church was fittingly celebrated. A joint service was held in the forenoon and afternoon. Both services were conducted by the present pastors, Rev. M. L. Herbine, Reformed, and Rev. L. R. Miller, Lutheran. The sermons in the forenoon were preached by former pastors of both congregations, the Rev. D. G. Gerberich, Lutheran, and Rev. R. S. Appel, Reformed. The afternoon sermons were preached by the sons of the congregations, Rev. James N. Blatt, Reformed, from old Zion-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

ville, Pa., and Rev. Dr. James L. Becker, Lutheran, from Lansdale, Pa.

It was then decided by both congregations at once to build a new church. But on account of a disagreement between the two congregations as to location, building was deferred. On August 27, 1921, the Lutheran pastor had an interview with Mr. Wellington Dietrich of Reading, who offered \$6,000 towards a new church, if the old would be kept standing as a relic. \$5,000.00 of this amount was to be used at once in the erection of the new church, and \$1,000.00 to be put in trust and the interest applied to maintain the old church.



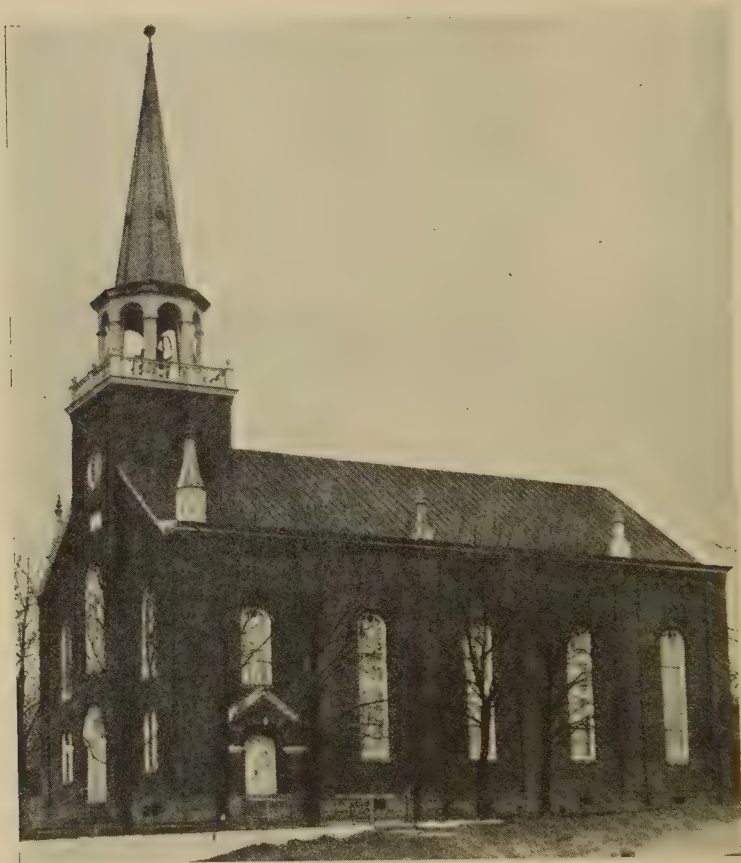
THE NEW BUILDING

Mr. Howard Zerby, owner of the ground beyond the church, donated an acre for the new church, and Henry Phillip donated two acres beyond the street, or opposite the acre donated by Mr. Zerby, for parking purposes.

Final action to proceed with the erection of the new church was taken at a joint meeting of both Church Councils on October 2, 1921. At this time it was also decided to use brick with cement block trimmings, that the church auditorium should be 52 by 92 feet and the Sunday School room 32 by 52 feet, that these rooms should be separated by a movable partition and that the church should be erected on the new site beyond the cemetery.

Building operations were begun in the spring of 1922. The corner-stone was laid on Sunday afternoon, July 23, of that year.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

ST. MICHAEL'S, TILDEN TOWNSHIP

ST. MICHAEL'S Lutheran and Reformed Church is located near the centre of the township. The church property contains about 50 acres of ground including a large cemetery and a residence for the organist. The church is a large brick building with spacious galleries on three sides, and has a seating capacity of 1400. It is the largest country church in the county. It has a steeple and bell. The cost of the church was \$18,000.00. The upper part of the building was dedicated in May, 1875. It was, however, erected the previous year. On the day of dedi-

cation a careless smoker dropped a match in the woods near-by where the horses were tied. In the conflagration that followed 17 horses perished and 22 vehicles were destroyed.

This is the third church building. The congregation was organized in 1769. Rev. Philip Jacob Michael, Reformed and Rev. Peter Mischler, Lutheran were the pastors. A log church was built that year. The property then consisted of nearly 6 acres of ground bought from John Schollenberger. Soon afterwards 46 acres more were bought. The first church stood on what is now known as the old cemetery, and was used until 1811.

The corner-stone of the second church was laid on August 5th, 1810. In a very short time this brick building without a spire was completed at a cost of 1308 pounds. The church was dedicated with all debts paid and a handsome balance in the treasury.

The Lutheran pastors were:—Peter Mischler; Daniel Schomacher; Miller; Daniel Lehman; John Knoske; Marcus Harpel; Carl J. C. Schmidt; T. T. Jaeger; 1861-1900, Rev. B. D. Zweizig; 1901-1912, Rev. D. G. Gerberich; 1912 to---, present pastor, Rev. L. R. Miller.

NEW BETHEL ZION'S, GREENWICH TOWNSHIP

THE brave pioneers, driven from their fatherland by oppression, found a home in Pennsylvania. The Germans settling in the vicinity of Grimsville brought with them their Bibles, hymnbooks, and prayerbooks, and thus kept up the religion in the home. They had occasional services by traveling missionaries, among the earliest being Count Zinzendorf, who visited America in 1742 and preached to the settlers of this vicinity from the balcony of Levan's Mill at Eaglepoint. But these people soon realized, that to keep up their faith and properly transmit it to their children, they must have an organized congregation and a regular pastor to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, as well as instruct their children. In 1761, possibly before any effort was made to build a church, Rev. Daniel Schumacher, then pastor of Allemangel Church, now New Jerusalem's Church, near Wessners-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

ville, confirmed a class of catechumens at Grimsville. In 1761, September 8, the fathers purchased two acres and four perches of ground from George Karns, for two pounds or nine dollars and seventy-two cents, for Church purposes.



NEW BETHEL ZIONS CHURCH

On this ground they built their first church. It was of stone. King George III was ruler of England and this country was a colony of England. The corner-stone of the church was laid May 18, 1761, hence 14 years before the Declaration of Independence. This first church was con-

secrated on October 3, 1762 by Rev. H. Schaum. While the church was exclusively Lutheran and called "Bethel" church, the Reformed living in the vicinity were given the privilege to use the church for occasional services and bury their dead in the cemetery. On February 19, 1763, the congregation through their trustees, George Kamp and Christian Ungerer, purchased from Michael Smith fifty acres of land for fifty pounds or two hundred and forty-three dollars for school purposes. After the first church had served its purpose for 41 years, on account of the increase of the congregation and the dilapidated condition of the building, it was deemed necessary and advisable to build a new church.

The corner-stone was laid, on Whitmonday, May 30, 1803, by Rev. John Frederick Obenhauser, who was then the pastor. At this time the name was changed to "New Bethel Zion's" Lutheran Church and the same concession made to the Reformed 4 years ago was renewed.

The new church, which stands today, was also built of stone and was finished in the short time of five months. This church was consecrated on the twenty-second Sunday after Trinity, November 6, 1803. The consecration took place when Thomas M. Kean was Governor of Pennsylvania. At the consecration, Rev. D. Geisenheiner preached the Lutheran sermon and Rev. H. Vonder Scoob, Reformed preached a second sermon, while the church was consecrated by the pastor, Rev John Frederick Obenhausen. On Monday, November 7, the pastor preached. The building committee was composed of Michael Croll, John Derr, Heinrich Kohler and Andrew Kampf.

In 1844 after the congregation had existed for 83 years as exclusively Lutheran it was resolved to make it a union church. The Reformed were required to pay one hundred dollars for their rights to all the property and this amount was to be used for renovating the building. From this time, it became a union church with equal rights to Lutheran and Reformed.

On the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity, September 22, 1861, while Rev. G. F. Jaeger was the Lutheran pastor and Rev. J. S. Herman, the Reformed, the congregatio

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of its organization. In the forenoon Rev. Thomas T. Jaeger, a son of the pastor preached the sermon. In the afternoon Rev. Daniel Brendel, Reformed, of Bethlehem, filled the pulpit.

In 1882 the church was thoroughly remodeled, a steeple built and a bell purchased. The cost of these improvements was over \$5,000.00. This was done during the pastorate of Rev. B. S. Smoll, Lutheran and Rev. J. S. Herman, Reformed.



NEW GRIMSVILLE CHURCH

September 13, 1903, the centennial of the erection of the present church building was celebrated. At this time, Rev. O. S. Scheirer was Lutheran pastor and Rev. R. S. Appel, Reformed. There were morning, afternoon and evening services when the following Lutheran ministers preached: Rev. C. C. Boyer, Ph. D., Rev. F. K. Bernd, Rev. D. D. Trexler, Rev. J. H. Raker; and Rev. Dr. Schoedler, Reformed, of Allentown.

In the early history of the congregation the records of the pastors are very imperfect. We know that Rev. Daniel Schumacher confirmed a class of catechumens in

1761. We know that Rev. H. Schaum was pastor when the first Church was consecrated in 1761. We know that Rev. John Friedrich Obenhassen laid the corner-stone of the second church in 1803. We know that Rev. Daniel Lehman and Rev. John Knoske were pastors but are unable to ascertain when their pastorates began and ended. From 1839 we have the correct data as follows:—

Revs. G. F. Jaeger, 1839-1873; B. S. Smoll, 1874-1890; F. K. Bernd, 1891-1896; O. S. Scheirer, 1896-1914; J. O. Schlenker, 1914 to---

The corner-stone of the new church was laid on July 22, 1923. The usual articles were placed in the stone. A very large number of people were present. The names of 1335 prsons who contributed \$1,746.50 were written on a record which was placed in the stone. The local pastor had charge of the service.

The Grimsville Parish is proud of the number of men it furnished for the Christian Ministry. It is a matter of regret that little more than their names can be given here. The following is the list:—Revs. D. K. Humbert, died at Bowers, September 21, 1913; D. D. Trexler, died at Bernville in 1914; Franklin S. Dietrich, a missionary to India, where (Dowlaiswaram) he made the supreme sacrifice on June 11, 1889; Edwin H. Smoll of the Schuylkill Haven Parish; J. O. Schlenker of the Grimsville Parish; W. F. Bond of Bowers Parish; A. L. Ramer, Ph. D., superintendent of the Immigrants Mission Board of the U. L. C.; Morris W. Krause of the Ringtown Parish.

NEW JERUSALEM, GREENWICH TOWNSHIP

IN THE year 1744, when Pennsylvania was still a colony of England and Greenwich Township was a part of Philadelphia County, a congregation was organized, near the Ontelaunee, by the German Reformed living in the community and a log church built. Mr. Conrad Koch presented about two acres of ground for this purpose. When this church was consecrated and whether it was given a specific name is not known, but it was known as the High German Reformed Church, "Dunkel Kirche" until

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

1790. Some time between 1744 and 1790, about 40 acres of ground were acquired.

In 1790, the congregation resolved to build a new church because the first one had become inadequate for present needs. But because the Reformed congregation was small they found the cost of erecting a new church beyond their means, so they decided to unite with the Luth-



NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH

erans of the community and build a union church. Hence the Lutheran organization here really dates from 1790. They built the new church in 1790 during the second term of George Washington, President of the United States and the first year of Thomas Mifflin, the first Governor of Pennsylvania. There is no record of the consecration and it was still known as Dunkel's Church.

In 1824 the church was thoroughly renovated and improved under the supervision of George Dietrich, Lutheran and John Lenhard, Reformed. These were no doubt the trustees. This renewed church was reconsecrated October 6, 1824 by Rev. Benjamin German, Lutheran and Rev. Augustus Herman, Reformed, the pastors, and was then

given the name New Jerusalem. This building rendered excellent service for 35 years until 1859 when the congregations decided to build a new church of brick. The cornerstone was laid June 12, 1859. In the "Proclamation" adopted and placed in the corner-stone we find the following declaration: "As God blesses the labors of our hands and this house is finished we will consecrate it to the Triune God, Father Son and Holy Ghost forever . . . here shall be preached the Christ and Him crucified and the Holy Sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper be administered according to the practice of the Apostles . . . Should after us men arise who forget their Saviour and God's precious Word and despise the Holy Sacraments, and will not tolerate the holy teachings, we take Heaven and Earth to witness that it is not our fault, but that we are free of their blood. This house that we here build shall always be a witness that we love Evangelical Christianity and desire its perpetuation and that it is our wish that reconciliation through Christ be preached in this church to poor sinners. That we expect of our children and descendants that they never leave nor forsake it and that through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, young and old be aroused, exhorted, and advanced to prepare for eternity. With such a wish and purpose in view we can confidently trust in God and say with Jacob, 'This stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house,' a place where God shall reveal his presence."

The building committee of the new church consisted of Captain George Heisely, John Merkel, George B. Dietrich, Benjamin Dietrich and Samuel Heily, Lutheran; and Jacob Dunkel, John Reinhart, Manassa K. Dreibelbis, Ephriam Dreibelbis and Peter A. Kline, Reformed.

In 1894, the church was thoroughly renovated, frescoed and practically a new organ installed. On September 2, the church was rededicated under the pastorate of Rev. B. S. Smoll, Lutheran, and Rev. B. Weiss, Reformed. The sermons on this occasion were preached by Rev. J. O. Schlenker, Lutheran, of Hazleton, and Rev. George W. Richards, Reformed, of Allentown.

In 1901, the steeple was erected and the bell procured.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

These were dedicated on September 1. In the forenoon, Rev. G. A. Spieker, D. D., Lutheran, and Rev. H. H. I. Benner, Reformed, preached. In the afternoon addresses were made by Revs. J. J. Cressman, D. D. Trexler, A. L. Ramer, Lutheran; and Rev. G. Gehrhart, Reformed. In the evening, Rev. A. L. Ramer, Ph. D., preached.

In 1909, during the pastorate of Rev. O. S. Scheirer, Lutheran and Rev. J. S. Bartholomew, Reformed, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the erection of the present church building was celebrated. In the forenoon Rev. I. B. Ritter, Lutheran, and Revs. Alfred J. Herman and H. A. I. Benner, Reformed, preached. In the afternoon Revs. Cressman, Ritter, Kline, Lynch, Lutheran; and Revs. Benner, Appel, and Leinbach, Reformed, made addresses.

On the Lutheran side Rev. G. F. Iaeger was pastor over fifty years and Rev. B. S. Smoll twenty years and six months.

The Lutheran pastors of New Jerusalem Church were the following:—Revs. Daniel Lehman, 1790-1804; Friedrich Engel, 1804-1823; G. F. Iaeger, 1823-1874; B. S. Smoll, 1874-1895; O. D. Miller (supply) 1895-1896; O. S. Scheirer, 1896-1914; J. O. Schlenker, 1914 to--.

NEW BETHEL, ALBANY TOWNSHIP

THE beginning of new Bethel Church, like most of our old rural Churches, is uncertain because of lack of proper records. It is believed that an organization was effected as early as 1750, and that a temporary structure was erected in 1751. The county record of roads shows that a church stood there in 1754. It is said that 40 persons were interested in the erection and that the following among others helped:—Jacob Zettermoyer, Simon Fries, Jacob Gerhart, Jacob Wade, Adam Levan, and Ferdinand Ritter.

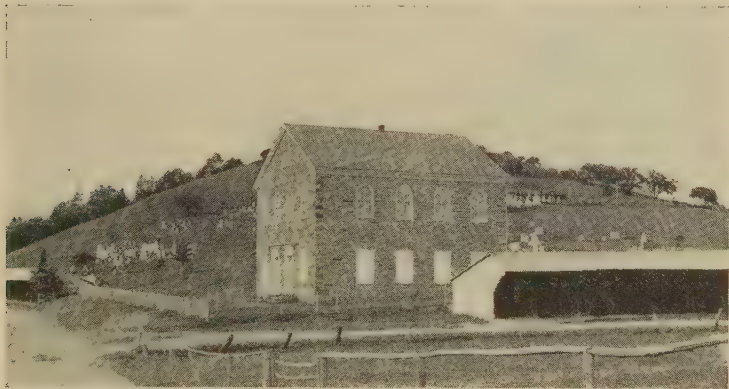
From 1761 we have reliable records.

On March 21, 1761, Hamadal Straszer presented three-fourths of an acre and 12 rods of land to the congregation for Church purposes. November 11, 1761 the foundation stone (Grundstein) was laid for the new church called "Bethel". A constitution was adopted and placed in the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

corner-stone. In this constitution equal rights were accorded to both Lutheran and Reformed. Then follows a list of 44 names and amounts they contributed in pounds, shillings, and pence as well as labor given. Of the finishing and consecration of this church, or who the pastors were we have no records.

In 1791 the church was rebuilt (auferbaut). A list showing 65 contributors in money and labor has been preserved. The amount expended on rebuilding the church was 188L-6s-5p and labor given by the members 105L-16s-9p, total 294L-3s-2p. Again we can find no record of the rededication or who the pastors were at this time.



NEW BETHEL CHURCH

This church evidently did service until 1853 when a new church, the present one, was erected, of pink Blue Mountain stone. At the laying of the corner-stone a proclamation and new constitution were adopted and placed in the corner-stone. At this time, the name was changed from "Bethel" to "New Bethel." The aforesaid Proclamation was signed by the pastors, Rev. G. F. J. Iaeger, Lutheran, and Rev. John Zulich, Reformed; the building committee consisting of 6 members; and the Baumeister consisting of 4 members. The constitution was signed by the Church Council, viz., 2 elders, 4 deacons, and the treasurer.

The corner-stone was laid March 8, 1853. Rev. Hinterleitner, Lutheran and Rev. Hautenbein, Reformed, preached the sermons.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

December 31, 1854 the church was consecrated. Saturday forenoon Rev. Thomas T. Iaeger, Lutheran, preached. Saturday afternoon Rev. Johan Zulich, Reformed, preached. On Sunday forenoon, Rev. Thomas T. Iaeger preached again and in the afternoon Rev. G. F. J. Iaeger, the Lutheran pastor, preached. The land upon which the new church was erected, valued at \$125 was presented by Benjamin Lenhart. The list shows that 208 contributed toward the erection of the new church in amounts from 25 cents to \$125. The old church was sold for \$223.26.

May 25, Ascension Day, 1854, the organ was dedicated at which service Rev. Hautenbein, Reformed, preached in the forenoon and Rev. Lauer, Lutheran, in the afternoon.

In 1883, the church was frescoed and generally renovated and was reconsecrated in October when the following pastors participated:—Revs. David Humbert, F. H. Erb, B. S. Smoll, Lutheran; and Dr. N. D. Schaeffer and J. N. Beckman, Reformed.

The early pastors, from 1761-1831 cannot be ascertained. The only record we are able to find is that Rev. John Fredich Obenhausen baptized children in 1795 and 1803, so he must have been a Lutheran pastor in those years. The following were the Lutheran pastors since 1831:—Rev. G. F. J. Iaeger, 1831-1874; Rev. B. S. Smoll, 1874-1885; Rev. O. D. Miller (supply), 1886-1897; Rev. O. S. Scheirer, 1897-1914; Rev. J. O. Schlenker, 1914 to---

FRIEDEN'S, ALBANY TOWNSHIP

THE "Allemaengel," now known as Jerusalem or Red Church, was organized before 1745. In 1770 difficulties arose in this congregation, and Rev. Daniel Schumacher, then the pastor, withdrew with a number of followers and organized what was then known as the "Neue Allemaengel" or "Friedens Kirche," also called "Freiheits Kirche" or "Weisse Kirche."

Rev. Daniel Schumacher, the actual founder of Frieden's Church, settled in Reading in 1754, where he served Alsace, Schwarzwald, St. Paul's, in Windsor Township, besides Reading. In 1755 he resigned Reading, and served "Allemaengel" and Zion's or Red Church, in Schuyl-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

kill County; also St. Michael's now served by Rev. L. R. Miller.

This Frieden's congregation was organized in 1770. Whether any of the Reformed pastors were present is not known, but Rev. Daniel Schumacher preached the first sermon on the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity.



FRIEDEN'S CHURCH

On Whitmonday, May 20, 1771, in the presence of a large assembly, Rev. Daniel Schumacher laid the corner-stone (he called it "Der Grund gelegt zur Kirch Erbauung"). He took as his text on this occasion I Cor. 3:10-13. Whether

other ministers were present the record does not state, but it is not likely.

From the corner-stone laying we can imagine how the few faithful people labored and sacrificed until 1774, when the new church was completed and consecrated. Rev. Schumacher says: "John Wessner, Henry Zimmerman, John Klueck, George Preasch labored so faithfully for the church and encouraged the others, that they won the congregation's and my love. May the holy Trinity graciously bless them for what they have done and accomplished. Amen."

Rev. Weiss' transcript from the old church book (now lost) says the following presents were given to the new church: Christian Hechler presented a beautiful communion set; Jacob Billman, a baptismal font; Mrs. Susanna Nargang, a white worked altar cloth; Christian Braucher, a church record; John A. Manderbach gave three pounds in money and a black altar cloth, with the prayer, "kindly to remember him." In 1773 a Chrisitan sister, M. E. S., gave a silver plate to be used to receive the offerings of the congregation, and in 1774 Elias Ruthgen gave a silk altar cloth.

The newly erected church was completed and consecrated on Whitmonday, May 20, 1774. We have not been able to learn of what material this church was built, though we are inclined to think that it was a log structure.

At the consecration of the new church Rev. Daniel Schumacher preached on Psalm 51:18-19, and the Reformed pastor, Rev. Frederick J. Berger, on Psalm 12:1-2.

The Church Council at the time of the consecration consisted of the following:—Elders, John Wessner, Lutheran, and George A. Groh, Reformed; Deacons:—Henry Zimmerman, Lutheran, Jacob Staum, Reformed.

Rev. Daniel Schumacher composed a poem of few verses for the occasion. The first verse is here given:—

"Oft gehts hart,
Im Rosen Gart
Kann man nicht allzeit sitzen.
Wer Gott vertraut
Und auf Ihn baut,
Den willer ewig schuetzen.

Erhebt Euch heute aus dem Staub
 Und leget ab des Kummers Kleider
 Freut Euch der Geist, die Gnade taub
 Macht Euer Hertz von Trost ganz heiter.
 Nach Ueberstandner Müh and Arbeit
 Erfüllt Euch Gott in seiner Kirch mit Gnad und Freud."

Rev. Daniel Schumacher, the founder of Frieden's Church, preached here from 1771 to 1774. He was succeeded by Rev. Frederick Miller, of Windsor Township, Berks County. He was followed by Rev. John Martin Schaefer, who was then located in West Penn, Schuylkill County. Then followed John S. Engel, of Hamburg, who also served Dunkel's and St. Jacob's, of Jacksonville, Lehigh County; also Rev. John Frederick Obenhausen, who was a Hollander, and well educated. He was licensed by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, at Reading, in 1794. He was pastor at Bethel Zion's, Grimsville, Ziegel Church, in Lehigh County, and Frieden's, Wessnersville. He lived in Greenwich Township. In 1795 he served Weisenberg and New Bethel, Albany Township. He was ordained at Easton by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1804. These are the ministers who, as far as we can learn, served Frieden's Church between 1770 and 1825. The beginning and termination of their pastorates we are unable to determine.

Revs. Daniel Schumacher served from 1770-1774; Frederick Miller, John Martin Schaefer, John S. Engel, John Friedrich Obenhausen from 1774-1825; G. F. J. Iaeger from 1825-1874; B. S. Smoll from 1874-1896; O. S. Scheirer from 1896-1914; J. O. Schlenker from 1914 to--.

The present church, which is the second building these congregations erected, was built in 1840, while Rev. G. F. J. Iaeger was the Lutheran pastor, and Rev. Charles G. Herman, assisted by his son, Rev. J. S. Herman, the Reformed.

The corner-stone of this church was laid on May 31, 1840. The following preached at this service: Rev. Joseph S. Dubbs, Reformed, of Whitehall, Lehigh County, and Rev. G. F. J. Iaeger, the Lutheran pastor, and Rev. William Munch, Lutheran, of Pottsville.

The new church was consecrated November 7 and 8,

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

1840, on which occasion Rev. Samuel Hess, Reformed, of Hellertown, preached on Psalm 122:1-2, and Rev. Joshua Iaeger, of Allentown, Lutheran, preached on Haggai 2:10. Rev. Augustus Herman, Reformed, was also present.

On September 4 and 5, 1875, although five years after the time, Frieden's Church celebrated its Centennial. On the first day, September 4, Rev. Henry Mosser, of Reading, preached on Exod. 3:2-7. Rev. Prof. A. R. Horne, of Kutztown, also filled the pulpit. On Sunday, September 5, Rev. G. F. J. Iaeger preached in the forenoon on Luke 12:3, and Rev. G. F. Spieker, of Kutztown, in the afternoon on I. Peter 2:4-5.

During the pastorate of Rev. B. S. Smoll, Lutheran, and Rev. Benj. Weiss, Reformed, the present church building was thoroughly renovated at an outlay of over \$2800.00. Land was purchased and the graveyard enlarged, a new barn built and other improvements made. The Lutheran congregation during the pastorate of Rev. B. S. Smoll, from 1874 to 1896, increased from 125 members to 325. During his pastorate Rev. Smoll confirmed 368, baptized 354, married 126, buried 134.

Within the last years quite a number of improvements were made. The new cemetery was laid out. In 1915 the church was painted at an outlay of about \$250.00. In 1916 a cement wall was built around the old graveyard at an expense of \$375.00. In 1918 the church was painted, new windows put in, frescoed, and pipeless heater installed at an expense of about \$1700.00.

The renovated church was reopened on September 1, 1918. Besides the pastors, Rev. J. O. Schlenker and Rev. A. L. Brumbach, Rev. J. O. Henry, superintendent of the Lutheran Orphans' Home at Topton, preached in the forenoon, and Rev. J. S. Bartholomew in the afternoon.

Many individual gifts were presented in the last few years to the church. Chas. Schollenberger presented the individual communion service to the Reformed congregation. On the Lutheran side the following gifts were made since the pastorate of Rev. J. O. Schlenker: June 27, 1918, Willoughby Wiesner presented 50 German and 50 English Church Books to the Lutheran congregation in memory of

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

his beloved wife Sarah Amelia, a born Oldt. Charles Kunkel presented a communion cup. Elmer V. Graff presented a communion flagon. Howard Dietrich presented black altar covers to be used on funeral occasions. The catechetical class of 1916 presented an English pulpit Bible.

On Sunday, October 31, 1920, the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of Frieden's Church was celebrated. Besides Pastors J. O. Schlenker and A. L. Brumbach of the two congregations, a number of visiting ministers were present. In the forenoon, Rev. G. D. Druckenmiller, Lutheran, from Hamburg, preached; in the afternoon, Rev. J. M. G. Darms, D. D., Reformed, from Allentown; in the evening, both pastors.

ST. JOHN'S, HAMBURG

THE early history of St. John's congregation is coincident with the founding of the town of Hamburg, the approximate date of which is 1772. In 1773 a Martin Kaercher donated a piece of land to be used by the Lutheran and Reformed people as a cemetery and a lot upon which to build a church. It was not until February 12, 1790 that the first church was dedicated. This house of worship was constructed of logs, and was a two story structure. The upper floor was used as a place of worship while the lower floor served as a school room. The church was known as "The United Evangelical Lutheran and Evangelical Reformed St. John's Church in the village of Hamburg." The pastors who served the congregations at this time were Rev. Daniel Lehman, Lutheran, and Rev. Henry Hertzell, Reformed.

Soon after the year 1800 it was decided by the congregations to build a larger church to meet the demands of the growing congregations. In order to raise the necessary funds, the congregations invoked the State Legislature to grant them the privilege of conducting a lottery for this purpose. Accordingly in the year 1807 an act was passed by the Legislature authorizing the congregations to raise \$3000 by lottery. This church was built of stone and its dimensions were 45 x 35 feet. The corner-stone was laid June 16, 1811, but for want of funds it was not com-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

pleted until 1814 and was dedicated in March, 1815. It was located on the present church site, while the old log church stood on a portion of what is now the old cemetery. After the old building was razed the logs were used to build a one story schoolhouse on the same site.

After forty-six years of service the stone church also proved inadequate, and on Whitmonday, June 1, 1857, it



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, HAMBURG

was decided to build a larger one. This edifice was 60 x 80 feet in dimensions, the foundation being constructed of the stones of the former church building, and the superstructure being of brick. During the rebuilding operations the congregations worshiped in the new brick schoolhouse which had replaced the old log structure. The corner-stone was laid Aug. 16, 1857, and the edifice dedicated sometime later, the exact date being unknown. Rev. G. F. I. Jaeger was the Lutheran pastor at this time. The two congre-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

gations worshiped in this church until Sunday, April 3, 1898. On this day the Lutheran pastor, Rev. H. C. Kline, dedicated two stained glass windows, presented by Oliver J. Wolff of Reading in memory of his and his wife's parents. On the following afternoon, April 4, the church was completely destroyed by fire. This marked the beginning of the separation of St. John's Lutheran and Reformed congregations after more than a century of union church



THE UNION CHURCH, DESTROYED
BY FIRE APRIL 4, 1898

activities. On May 9, 1898 it was decided by a large majority to build separate churches, the Lutherans electing to rebuild on the old site, and the Reformed to build on the corner of Third and Pine Streets.

On May 10, 1898 the Lutheran congregation decided to erect a church 90 x 106 feet. The congregation was reorganized and incorporated under the name and title of "St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hamburg", and the new constitution was adopted May 31, 1898. On

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

June 20 the following officers were elected: Elders, James L. Merkel, Benjamin Gardner, and Dr. J. B. Potteiger; Deacons, Walter J. Loy, George Bond, George Egolf, and Alfred J. Raubenhold; Trustees, Reuben A. Dietrich, Walter M. Raubenhold, and Milton Buchman. The corner-stone was laid on Sunday, September 4, 1898, by the pastor, Rev. H. C. Kline, assisted by Dr. S. L. Harkey and Rev. J. U. H. Heintz. While the congregation was without a church, services were conducted in Armory Hall until Christmas Day when the basement of the Sunday School, or what is known as the Assembly Room, was used for worship.



THE PARSONAGE

Beginning with Sunday, March 12, 1899, services were held in the Sunday School chapel, and on Whitsunday, May 21, 1899, the church was dedicated. The pastor conducted the services assisted by Rev. F. J. F. Schantz, D. D., Rev. J. Fry, D. D., Rev. G. W. Sandt, D. D., Rev. B. D. Zweizig, Rev. D. D. Trexler, and Rev. Ernest Bawden. It is a beautiful and imposing structure, constructed of yellow pressed brick with grey sand stone trimmings, and erected at a cost of \$40,000. It is modern and churchly in its appointments, and is a worthy monument to both pastor and peo-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

ple. On July 25, 1897, not quite a year before the destruction of the church by fire, the congregation bought a parsonage at a cost of \$3000.

St. John's was a part of a large country parish until May, 1906 by which time the congregation had increased and matured to such an extent that the entire time and services of a pastor were needed. Thus the pastor, Rev. H. C. Kline, resigned his country Church, and accepted the call from St. John's. A number of repairs and improvements have been made to the church since it was built. During the pastorate of Rev. G. D. Druckenmiller, the church was recarpeted, and in the year 1915 the entire church was renovated and the walls frescoed at a cost of over \$2000. Special "Reopening" services were held which were conducted by the pastor, assisted by Rev. M. L. Zweizig. After the resignation of Rev. G. D. Druckenmiller on April 1, 1922, the present pastor, Rev. Rufus E. Kern took charge, June 1, 1922. Since then the church was again recarpeted, the floors varnished, and various other repairs made at a cost of almost \$1500.

Various organizations have rendered valuable service to the life of the congregation in its later history especially. The Luther Aid Society is an organization composed mostly of women which deserves mention here. It was organized more than 30 years ago, and has since then paid over \$4,000 toward the parsonage debt, bought the pipe organ at a cost of \$2300, purchased the altar vestments at a cost of \$325, and in August, 1922, purchased the new carpet at a cost of almost \$1200. This society has also from the very beginning assumed all cost of repairs to the parsonage.

The pastors who have served St. John's congregation and their years of service are as follows:—Peter Mishler, not ordained; Revs. Daniel Lehman, 1778-1803; Daniel and John Knoske, 1803-1816; F. Engel, 1816-1823; Carl Strein, 1823-1828; Ludwig Waltz, 1828-1832; F. A. M. Keller, supply; G. F. J. Iaeger, 1832-1860; J. H. Eberman, 1860-1861; S. S. Kline, 1861-1867; T. T. Iaeger, 1868-1880 (German); Benjamin Zweizig, 1868-1880 (English); C. K. Drumheller, 1880-1883; O. D. Miller, 1884-1896; H. C.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Kline, 1897-1910; G. D. Druckenmiller, 1910-1922; Rufus E. Kern, 1922 to---

ST. JOHN'S, KUTZTOWN

WHEN St. John's Lutheran congregation was organized is not definitely known. The Rev. J. J. Cressman thinks 1752 or even earlier. Rev. Tobias Wagner in his list of farewell sermons 1744-1746 gives the ninth as delivered at Maxton and this is taken to be Maxatawny. Maxatawny was the name of a Lutheran



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, KUTZTOWN

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

church as well as the Reformed at the time, and was taken from the district in which it was located. If the above is correct the date of organization would be 1744.

The Reformed organized as early as 1736. They conducted services in a barn located on Daniel Levan's farm one-half mile east of what is now Kutztown. On ground donated by Daniel Levan a log meeting-house was erected in 1755 on the west bank of the Sacony. In this building a stone floor was used. It had no pulpit. Nothing more of the structure is known. Some graves can still be found, thus indicating the burial place of these congregations.

In 1789 the congregations decided to erect a new union church in the town, on the site where the present building stands. They acted on 18 articles known as church regulations, which are very interesting. The building committee was:—Lutheran, Jacob Herrman, Jacob Sweier, Michael Werlein; Reformed, George Pfister, Jeremias Kolb, Peter Christman.

The building was a wooden structure, colonial in architecture and cost the congregations \$3307.33. In the presence of a very large concourse of people, the church was dedicated on August 7, 1791 by the Rev. Daniel Lehman, Lutheran, and the Rev. John Heinrich Helfrich, Reformed. On January 2, 1813 it became free of debt. In 1816 it was weather-boarded at a cost of \$574.98. In 1842 the churchyard was completed. In 1846 a new wineglass pulpit was installed. The total cost of the building up to this time was about \$6000.00. For eighty-six years this edifice did service. However, as the congregations increased, the need of a larger building was felt and on April 4, 1876 the two Church Councils decided to submit the erection of the present church to the congregations. A vote was taken on the seventeenth of the same month, 279 favoring a new building and 77 opposing it. Preparations were immediately made for the building of a new structure. The following committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions:—Lutheran, Charles Deisher, George Bieber, Jacob Sunday, Chas. Kutz, Jonathan Bieber, George Kutz; Reformed, Charles Rahn, William Rahn, Jacob Rahn, David Schaeffer, John Christman, Jacob Kemp.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

In the presence of a great multitude of people on Whitsunday, June 4, 1876, the corner-stone was laid. The exercises were continued on Whitmonday which in former years was regarded as a holiday. The Sunday morning sermon was preached by the Rev. B. S. Smoll, assisted by Rev. J. S. Herman, and in the afternoon of the same day Rev. B. Weiss, from Lenhartsville filled the pulpit. The corner-stone was laid by the Revs. B. E. Kramlich and J. S. Herman, assisted by the elders of the congregations. In it were deposited the following articles: a Bible, Lutheran catechism, Heidelberg catechism, sacramental wine and wafer, names of the officers, coins, a silver dollar (donated by Dewalt Kemp with his name engraved on it), The Lutheran Zeitschrift, The Reformed Hausfreund, and the Kutztown Journal. Also a document containing the resolution that the congregations shall remain Lutheran and Reformed as long as five members in good standing shall desire it. On Monday morning Rev. B. Weis preached again, and in the afternoon, Rev. D. Humbert, of Bowers. The old corner-stone was relaid. The act was performed by the Rev. J. S. Herman. In it were deposited an old Bible presented by Charles Kutz of Kutztown, an old hymn-book, the old constitution of the congregations, with all the names of the officers up to the year 1876, a quarter dollar and a five cent piece donated by the old bell ringer, Charles O'Neal. The church was dedicated the following year, October 28, 1877, by the pastors in charge, Revs. J. J. Cressman and J. S. Herman. They were assisted by the Revs. J. B. Rath, B. E. Kramlich and L. Groh, D. D., then president of the conference (Lutheran); Rev. E. V. Gerhard, D. D., and N. C. Schaeffer, D. D. (Reformed). The edifice is a brick structure with a seating capacity of 800. The dimensions are 49 x 76. The large basement is divided into four rooms for Sunday School purposes. In the lofty spire hangs a fine Meneeley Bell, noted for its beautiful tone. In 1886-1887 the church was frescoed and a new Möller pipe organ installed.

In 1896 the two congregations were separated. St. John's Lutheran and Reformed congregations still have one building but they exist as two distinct organizations.

Each congregation has its own treasury and pays its own bills. Only in repairs and similar things, each congregation pays half. Either congregation also has its own Bible School, elects its own officers and handles its funds separately. This is an ideal way for union congregations.

In 1804 a stone schoolhouse was erected by the two congregations. Abraham Dauber was the first school teacher. The preamble and constitution governing the schoolhouse are still in existence. This building is now occupied as a dwelling. It has recently been sold by the congregations. The schoolhouse was built on seven lots 87 x 88, the first three lots deeded by Henry Kohler then proprietor of Kutztown for a dollar and the rest for five shillings.

In 1876, the Rev. G. F. Spieker resigned this congregation and organized Trinity Lutheran Church of Kutztown. St. John's congregation has three active sons in the ministry: the Rev. Milton Bieber, field missionary of the Northwest; the Rev. George Shiery, Spring City, Pa.; and the Rev. Edwin L. Miller, Boston, Mass.

The Rev. Elmer H. Leinbach has served the Reformed congregation since 1896.

From 1799 to 1803, Frederic Ritze supplied the pulpit. He was probably a school teacher. His name appears on neither the Reformed nor Lutheran rolls. Rev. Lehman had moved to Reading but returned and took charge in 1803. The following pastors have served: Revs. Tobias Wagner, likely from 1744-1746; Daniel Schumacher, 1756---; John Helfrecht Shaum, 1759-1777; Daniel Lehman, 1777-1810; John Knoske, 1810-1839; Daniel Kohler, 1839-1851; Gustave Adolph Hinterleiter, 1852-1866; George Frederick Spieker, 1867-1876; John J. Cressman, 1877-1914 (1877-1880 supply); J. W. Bittner, 1914 to---.

MAIDENCREEK, BLANDON

THE Maiden creek Church is located at the northern end of the village of Blandon (Blandtown). The name of the Church is derived from the name of the township which in turn received its name from the creek running through it.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

For about a year Lutheran and Reformed services were conducted in the Blandon schoolhouse. March 30, 1860 a public meeting, at which the Lutherans as well as the Reformed were represented, was held. It was there resolved, that a union church be erected on the land donated for this purpose by Benjamin Fox and his wife, Susan. At this same meeting, William Bland, J. Deturk, Adam W. Kauffman, Simon Moyer, John B. Rothermel and Daniel Trout were appointed a building committee. Paul Rothermel was made treasurer and Jacob Fisher, secretary. The



MAIDEN CREEK CHURCH

building committee was empowered to erect a brick church with tower, basement, vestibule and gallery in the gothic style, for the joint use of a Lutheran and a Reformed congregation, opposite the Blandon schoolhouse, on the plot of ground above named. The two congregations pledged their support and aid to the best of their ability. April 28, the committee entered into a contract for the excavating of

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

the church. This church, when completed, cost about \$7,000.

The corner-stone was laid on Sunday, June 24. Services were also held on the Saturday preceding. The ministers who took part were: Lutheran, Rev. B. E. Kramlich; Reformed, Revs. Samuel Miller, D. T. Brindel, S. T. Herman and R. S. Appel, the latter being independent at the time. As usual a paper containing the rules and regulations by which the congregations were to be governed in the future, was deposited in the corner-stone, together with the Bible, Luther's small catechism, a Heidelberg catechism, bread (leavened), wafers (unleavened bread), wine and a union hymn book.

The document above referred to, provides that, "the name of the church is to be the Maidencreek church at Blandon".

The building was dedicated December 25 and 26, the dedicatory services proper being held on Christmas. The ministers present and taking part were, Revs. B. D. Zweizig, F. J. F. Schantz, D. D., Benj. E. Kramlich, Joel Grim, Jeremiah Schindel and E. H. M. Sell on the part of the Lutherans, and Rev. J. S. Herman, Reformed.

Nov. 5, 1861, a charter incorporating the church under the name of "The Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church of Maidencreek", was secured.

During the early years the congregations were satisfied with the use of a melodeon. But before many years had elapsed, this was exchanged for a pipe organ. After this had been in use for some years, it was exchanged for a larger instrument. About 20 or 25 years ago, one of Bohler's manufacture was put in its place.

The present Reformed pastor is the Rev. M. H. Brensinger.

Rev. B. D. Zweizig became the first Lutheran pastor soon after the church was erected and served until September 9, 1903. He was followed by Revs. C. E. Kistler, October, 1903 to April, 1908; J. O. Henry, October, 1908 to October, 1909; W. K. Fisher, September, 1910 to November, 1914; J. W. Bittner, 1914 to---



TRINITY CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSE

TRINITY, KUTZTOWN.

TRINITY congregation had its inception when a Lutheran Sunday School was organized on April 24, 1868, by a number of members of St. John's congregation. This was followed by the erection of a chapel on the ground now occupied by Trinity church, at Main and Baldy streets, Kutztown, Pa. The chapel was dedicated during Christmas week of 1875, by the pastor of St. John's congregation, the Rev. G. F. Spieker, D. D. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. D K. Humbert of Bowers, Pa. The pastors who assisted in the services were Revs. B. E. Kram-

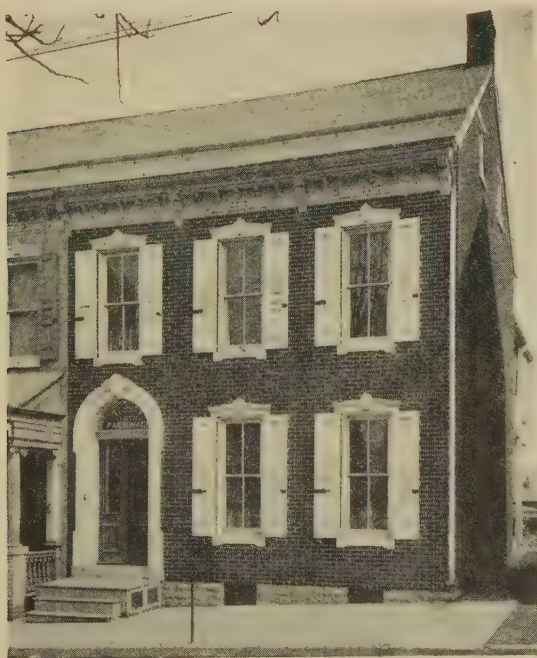
LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

lich, A. R. Horne, D. D., W. B. Fox, and Irvin W. Bieber.

Trinity congregation was organized on May 27, 1876. Its first Church Council consisted of the following:—Elders, Richard Miller, John H. Humbert, J. P. Daniel Hinterleiter, Sr., Jacob R. Heffner; Deacons, Daniel K. Sprenger, Samuel Wiltrout, Clinton Bieber and Eugene D. Bieber. Trustees, Isaac F. Christ, Daniel Yaxtheimer, Jacob Hinterleiter and Peter Krause.

The Rev. G. F. Spieker, D. D., having resigned as pastor of St. John's congregation, was unanimously elected as the first pastor. He served until September 30, 1883. The pastors following were:—Rev. W. S. C. Mueller, D. D., 1884-1890; Rev. S. L. Harkey, D. D., 1891-1901; Rev. E. P. Pfatteicher, D. D., Ph. D., 1902; Rev. R. B. Lynch, 1903 to---

The congregation worshiped in the chapel until 1894 when the present church edifice was erected. In 1915 the original chapel was altered and added to and the present thoroughly equipped plant completed. The committee in



TRINITY PARSONAGE

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

charge of the church building was:—Charles W. Miller, Walter B. Bieber, Wm. G. Hinterleiter and Charles D. Herman. This committee also served as finance committee and through their untiring efforts, and the liberal contributions of the members, the building was dedicated practically free of debt. The moving spirits in the erection and arrangement of the parish house and Bible School room, were Quinton D. Herman, Rev. Dr. G. Smith Kressley, John S. Swoyer, and the present pastor.

The fine organ was the gift of Mrs. Hannah Biehl, a memorial to her husband and son Lawson. In 1912 the parsonage was purchased and renovated.

Trinity congregation has grown to be one of the leaders in the Reading Conference, in her support of the general Church work. Her pastors have served as presidents of conference and synod. She has given these sons to the ministry:—Revs. I. W. Bieber, W. J. Bieber, W. W. Kramlich, J. F. Kramlich, George Kercher, Karl W. Miller, and student Paul A. Christ.

ZION'S MOSELEM, RICHMOND TOWNSHIP

THIS congregation is one of the 10 oldest Lutheran congregations of Berks County. The earliest records are quite lacking in details and seem to take much for granted. From them we learn that at least as early as 1737 there was an established Zion's Moselem. The first church was built in 1740. The building committee consisted of Leonard Reber, Philip Tobias, Christian Hausknecht, John Hirt, Frederick Kraemer, John Sieger, and two others whose names are illegible. A later record dated 1761 says: "Since the congregation has grown so large in numbers since 1737, it has become necessary to build a new and larger Church building." Accounts of monies paid out for building and furnishings are a part of the same record. The present building was erected in 1896.

The first regular pastor of record was the Rev. Frederick Schaum, who served until his death about 1777. The pastor following him was the Rev. Daniel Lehman, who served from 1778 until his death in October of 1810. The

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

record says that he was buried under the altar of the church, and that the funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Henry Muhlenberg, Jr., on the text St. John 17:5. Rev. Lehman was followed by Rev. Knoske, who served from 1811-1817. With this entry the record of pastors ends until 1884. In the interim, which is without official record, there is tradition of the service of Revs. Miller (father and son) Jaeger, Roeller, B. F. Kramlich and G. F. Spieker, D. D.



MOSELEM CHURCH

The later pastors were:—Rev. W. C. A. Müller, D. D., 1884-1890; Rev. S. L. Harkey, D. D., 1891-1901; Rev. E. P. Pfat-
teicher, D. D., Ph. D., 1902; Rev. R. B. Lynch, 1903 to---

The ground upon which the church stands is held by grant of Wm. Penn and heirs. This grant was confirmed on August 12, 1748, the quit-claim paid being L 15 s. 13. D 1. According to the confirmation the quit-claim was granted

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

“for the sole and only use, benefit and behoof of the minister and society or congregation of Lutherans using and frequenting the said Meeting House erected or to be erected upon the herby granted tract of land.” The present church stands upon the granted land.

The Rev. G. W. Fritch, Ph. D., is a son of this congregation.



TRINITY CHURCH

TRINITY, LEESPORT

THE union church building where Trinity worships is located in the village of Leesport, Ontelaunee Township. It is situated near the southern part of the village along the eastern side of the Reading & Pottsville road. The present building is the second church edifice erected by the Lutheran and Reformed congregations.

Meetings to plan and erect the first structure were held in the old Leesport schoolhouse, situated on top of the hill opposite the present cemetery. On February 15th, 1867,

the citizens of Leesport and vicinity assembled for the purpose of taking steps to build a church, for the worship of God and to be used by the German Reformed and Lutheran denominations. On motion of Adam H. Gernant an organization was effected. Dr. Jeremiah Levan was elected president and I. M. Rahn, secretary. The various committees on constitution, building site, burial ground, dimensions and subscription were appointed.

Regular meetings continued to be held, and the committees reported. A lot, 80 feet front and 330 feet deep extending to an alley, was secured from Adam H. Gernant, for the purpose of building a church thereon. It was agreed that it should be built of brick, that it should have a basement and a main floor, and that the dimensions should be 50 by 76 feet. The cost of the church was estimated to be \$10,000.00.

On March 11, 1867, the subscription committee reported as the result of their canvass, the total sum of \$4517.00. The motion of Reuben Wanner that the above amount was sufficient to start the erection of the church edifice, carried unanimously. The building committee was then elected; and at a following meeting, it was resolved that the committee on building should be incorporated.

The Trinity German Reformed and Evangelical Lutheran Church of Leesport, Pa., was incorporated November 7th, 1867. In reference to the call of pastors, etc., article six (6) states, "The male members of each of said congregations shall have the right to choose their own pastor and fix his salary, elect all Church officers, and manage all their own congregational affairs without any interference from the other." These articles are signed by the following persons:—Charles Ketner, Paul D. Stoudt, Charles Hains, Jacob S. Graeff, A. J. Dundore, M. D., Jacob Saul, I. M. Rahn, J. E. Levan, M. D., John Shadle, D. E. Edleman. The corner-stone laying of the church took place on July 21, 1867. Rev. S. S. Klein, a member of the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, took part in the services. Revs. E. Bausman, J. Seip, and L. D. Leberman representing the Reformed Synod of the United States likewise took part. The Reformed members of the building com-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

mittee were:—Adam H. Gernant, John V. Epler, M. D., and Jacob Freeman. The Lutheran members on this committee were:—Tobias Clauser and Reuben Wanner. Two additional members were:—John Spayd, master carpenter and Adam Berger, master mason.

Business meetings were held in the basement as early as March 6th, 1868. Very likely services were conducted in the basement of the church on and after July 5, 1868; for the pastorate of Rev. Benjamin D. Zweizig dates from that time.

The by-laws of the articles of incorporation were adopted, March 9, 1868. New officers were elected as follows:—President, D. E. Fisher; vice-president, John Moll; secretary, I. M. Rahn; treasurer, L. M. Lenhart.

The main floor with its furnishings of pews, altar, etc., was finished by January 15th, 1872. In that same year on Christmas morning the people of Leesport and vicinity were amazed to find the church in flames. The following is recorded in the minute-book, "December 25th, 1872, fire was discovered in the new church of "Trinity German Reformed and Evangelical Lutheran Church of Leesport" at about 5 o'clock the same morning. Nothing was saved. Every effort was made by the citizens of Leesport to quench the fire, but to no avail. Loss is estimated \$20,000.00. The cause of the fire is unknown." The building was partly insured.

With one accord the members of the congregations prepared to rebuild. Again, the first meeting was held in the old Leesport schoolhouse, January 27th, 1873. Other meetings were held in Kauffman's schoolhouse and in the rooms of the Leesport Building Association.

A plan for the building was furnished by Fink & Eisenhower. This plan was finally adopted. The new church should have a main building and chapel. The material used in rebuilding should be brick. The trustees, S. M. Lenhart, John Haines, J. V. Epler, M. D., and Reuben Wanner were advised to ascertain the cost of said proposed building, by contract, labor, or otherwise, to select the cheaper method and rebuild at once.

The chapel was finished by March 25th, 1874. Services

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

were conducted in the chapel until 1881 when the main building was completed. The church was dedicated on November 27th, 1881. A pipe organ was purchased some years later. Other alterations have since been made, such as change of position of pipe organ, another pulpit, electric lights, steam-heat, stained-glass windows, etc.

The first pastor of the Lutheran congregation was the Rev. Benjamin D. Zweizig. He gave his services to this congregation until he died—from July 5, 1868 until September 9, 1903. The second pastor called was the Rev. George S. Seaman. He labored in this vineyard for ten years, 1904-1914. Both of these pastors were born and reared in Berks County at or near Hamburg. The third and present pastor is Rev. Elbert E. Landis, whose labors began December 20, 1914.

The organists who played in this church were:—Levi Kauffman, Mrs. A H Gernant, Miss Sallie Lenhart, Miss Carrie Brobst, Wm. Lewis, Edward Kauffman. The present organist and choir leader is Miss Jean Glover.

The superintendents of the union Sunday School were, I. N. Rahn for 30 years, and C. Edward Spayd for 25 years. Otis Rothenberger is the present superintendent.

The two congregations have a union ladies' aid society. The Lutheran congregation claims a healthy adult missionary society, a junior missionary society and a Luther League.

ST. JOHN'S ONTELAUNEE TOWNSHIP

 T JOHN'S Church is located one mile east of Leesport. The church edifice stands on a very favorable site and may be seen from various directions in the community.

The present church building is probably the second house of worship which was erected and used by the Reformed and Lutheran congregations. The contention that a church building was erected either previous to 1794 or sometime between 1794 and 1868, is but weakly supported. The records at hand are these: the present building contains two corner-stones, the first one dated 1794 and the second 1868; the deeds indicate that the congregations

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

held no land previous to 1794; the builders of the present edifice name but two dates, the founding of the church 1794, and the rebuilding of the church 1868; there was no cemetery before 1794. The earliest burial was that of Nicholas Schaeffer, who was born 1732—died 1796.

The edifice erected in 1794 was built of logs which were rough cast. The interior was furnished with gal-



CERNANT'S CHURCH

leries on three sides. The pipe organ was placed on the rear gallery. Two hundred feet back of the building along the cemetery boundary stood an old log schoolhouse. This schoolhouse was used for catechetical instruction, etc., for many years. It is believed by some that this schoolhouse

stood before 1794 and that the congregations were organized in it, and then planned and built the first church.

The trustees, elders and deacons of the congregations at the time of the erection of the first church building in 1794 were Jacob Rahn, Yost Lies, Nicholas Schaeffer, John Althouse, Ludwig Bausher and Jacob Huy. An appeal for financial aid, dated November 25, 1795, was addressed to the community. This appeal is well preserved and appears in excellent form and hardwriting. If one may judge by the signatures it was penned by John Gernant. There are two copies of this appeal: the first, an English, the second a German copy. It reads, as follows: "Whereas the German Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Congregations in and about Maidencreek have jointly built a house of worship in said township, which they have finished, and exerted their utmost endeavors to defray the charges thereof, but finding themselves considerable in debt; they therefore beg those disposed to charity to lend their assistance by contributing something, what they think necessary, in order that said congregations may be enabled to discharge their debts. Which donations shall be gratefully held in remembrance by said congregations."

Maidencreek Township,

November 25th, 1795.

John Gernant, Louis Bossler, J. E. Eckert, Jacob Huy,
Nicholas Schaeffer.

The title of the congregations as recorded on the above appeal and on the first two deeds is "The German Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church". In the third deed, dated February 11, 1834, the name St. John's is used. The original title, one would naturally conclude, was "St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church." The title was written differently when on February 10th, 1868, the Articles of Incorporation were adopted and secured. The present title is "St. John's German Reformed and Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ontelaunee". The popular title of the congregations is Gernants. The first deeds that use this name in explanatory fashion are dated June 4th, 1870. No doubt the name came to be used

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

from the fact that much of the land first belonged to the Gernant's family and because of the prominence of the heads of the family in congregational activities.

The land on which the first church was erected and where the old cemetery is located was procured from Mordecai Lee and John Gernant. One-half acre was bought from Mordecai Lee for the sum of five pounds (English money); one hundred fifty-six perches were "granted by indenture by said John Gernant and Maria his wife, bearing even date herewith November 22, 1795". This land was secured for the purpose of having a joint burial ground and a place of worship. This information is found in the deed of Mordecai Lee. The second deed, dated August 13th, 1819, tells of the purchase of four acres, ninety-seven perches from William and John Willits for the sum of \$160.00. Another deed recorded February 11th, 1834, shows the purchase of ninety-five perches from Thomas Smith for the sum of \$125.00. One hundred seventeen perches were bought from John H. Gernant and Adam H. Gernant (sons of the above named John Gernant) for the sum of \$73.00. Also twelve acres, one hundred fifty-three perches from John H. Gernant and Adam H. Gernant for the sum of \$1295.62½. The two last named tracts were bought at the rate of \$100.00 per acre, the price agreed upon according to the minutes and also stated in the deeds dated June 4th, 1870. Later a tenement house with three acres, fifteen perches, was purchased from Frederick Kehr. When the present church was about to be built, it was resolved to sell certain tracts of land. This was probably done. It is estimated that the present property consists of eighteen (18) acres.

Through the efforts of Harry Spang, son-in-law of John H. Gernant in 1921 and 1922, a separate fund for the care of the cemetery has been provided. Harry Spang personally canvassed members and friends of the congregations for subscriptions to the amount of \$7000.00. He also assisted the committee in procuring the larger part of the remaining subscriptions. The total subscriptions amount to \$10,000.00. The other members of the committee were: George Hottenstein, Morris Rothenberger, Wil-

liam Dries, Wert Rahn, Morris Stoyer, Oswill Rahn and Edwin Clay.

The present church building was planned by the members of the congregations at business sessions held on September 14, 18, 23, and 30, 1867. At the first meeting Charles D. Hottenstein was elected president and John R. Hottenstein, secretary. At this first session the location for the new building was selected—the ballots, with one exception, favored the new location. The men appointed on the building-site committee were: William Rahn, Charles Y. Moser, and Henry Gromis. This committee was directed to call on John H. Gernant and Adam H. Gernant. At the second meeting the committee reported that one or two acres of land could be secured from John H. Gernant and Adam H. Gernant. Later at another business meeting they agreed to buy land from John H. Gernant and Adam H. Gernant at the rate of \$100.00 per acre. The edifice accordingly was located about three hundred feet east of the old church. Next it was agreed that a subscription committee should be appointed, and that labor as well as money should be considered in redeeming pledges. The Lutherans named on the subscription committee were: Henry Gauker, Henry Gromis, Samuel Edelman, David Schlegel; the Reformed members of the committee were John H. Gernant, John E. Fisher, Charles Y. Moser and Franklin Rothenberger.

The new church was to be built of brick; it should contain a basement and also a main room for worship with galleries on each side and rear, and a foundation should be made for a steeple. In size it was to be somewhat similar to Epler's church. The men elected to serve as members of the building committee were: Henry Gromis, Henry Gauker, Charles Y. Moser, treasurer, John H. Gernant, William Rahn and Franklin Rothenberger. On September 23 it was resolved that the congregations should secure a charter; on September 30th the Articles of Incorporation were read and adopted. These Articles of Incorporation were approved by the court, W. J. Woodward, presiding judge, on February 10, 1868. The charter is signed by the following: John H. Gernant, Isaac Berg, Charles Berg, Franklin Rothenberger, Daniel E. Edelman, John R. Fisher,

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

George Stoudt, Jacob Rahn, Henry Gass, Daniel Stoudt, Jacob K. Huy, John W. Althouse.

The corner-stone laying took place in 1868. Business sessions were held in the new basement of the church as early as April 18th, 1870. The main room of worship and galleries were not completed until 1886. The members handled the debt with a great deal of difficulty. On May 14th, 1874, at a business meeting, it was decided to levy a per capita tax of \$5.00 on male members and \$3.00 on female members. It was further agreed to levy a real estate and property tax for the balance of the debt. It was also agreed that payment should be made in two installments; the first on July 1st, 1874, the second on January 1st, 1875. The members selected for this tax committee were: A. M. Glas-mire, C. D. Hottenstein, J. M. Rahn. At another time in order to avoid a sheriff-sale, Benneville Dunkel settled a debt of \$1500.00. This loan was secured with a note endorsed by a number of loyal church members and later on was paid. Those who had endorsed the note were given cemetery lots in appreciation and part payment.

The church was finally completed and dedicated October 24th, 1886. The offering on that occasion amounted to \$148.15. The present pipe organ was obtained from the Miller Organ Company for \$1,200.00. It was dedicated June 12th, 1887. The offering on this occasion amounted to \$81.35. The church bell was purchased in 1911 at a cost of \$700.00. At the dedication of the bell, Rev. George S. Seaman used the inscription on the bell "O, come let us worship" as the text for the sermon.

The Lutheran pastors who served here were: Revs. Ditzler, Harpel, R. S. Wagner, Miller, Minnich, B. D. Zweizig, G. S. Seaman. The present pastor is Rev. Elbert E. Landis. The Rev. John K. Stoudt is serving the Reformed congregation. The Lutheran congregation claims one son in the ministry, Rev. Wert Dries, pastor of the Mahoning parish, Lehighton, Pa.

The former organist, John Heinz, served this congregation, Epler's, and Hinnerschitz for a period of forty years. The present organist, John B. Ammarell, served this congregation and Epler's for thirty-four years, and Hinner-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

schitz for nineteen years. The present Sunday School superintendent is Morris Rothenberger. The church officers are: Wilson Mease, Wm. Dries, Edwin Clay, Alfred Ramich, Morris Stoyer, George Hottenstein.



EPLER'S CHURCH

EPLER'S, BERN TOWNSHIP

EPLER'S church is a plain brick building located on a commanding site in the central part of Bern Township. The Reformed had a congregation here at a very early day. No positive date as to the time of its first organization can be settled upon. It was probably between the years 1727 and 1738. In their first church, which apparently was a log structure, the Reformed brethren worshiped from 50 to 60 years until 1788. Then they erected a new stone church. No details are given of this church. This remained in use until 1851 or a period of 63

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

years. Then the present brick structure was built. The corner-stone was laid June 1, 1851. Abraham Koenig, William Herbine, Jacob Gerhart, and John Fox were the building committee. It was dedicated April 11, 1852. For 90 to 98 years it remained in the hands of the Reformed alone. Then it became a union church. In 1898 a beautiful square tower, without spire, was added and a splendidly toned bell of 3000 pounds placed in it. This addition cost about \$3000.00. The church has a fine organ placed there by Thomas Dieffenbach in 1877.

The present Reformed pastor is the Rev. George W. Gerhart.

In 1825 Rev. Walz commenced holding services for the Lutherans. Rev. George Minnich served from 1833 to 51; Rev. R. L. Wagner from 1851 to 60; Rev. J. J. Kuendig from 1860 to 1862. Rev. Kuendig was succeeded by Rev. Benjamin D. Zweizig who labored for the congregation until the time of his death, 1903. Rev. George S. Seaman served from 1904 to 1914 and was followed by Rev. Elbert E. Landis, the present pastor.

John Heinz was the organist from 1848 to 1889. He was followed by John B. Ammarell, the present incumbent. For many years a good school for the study of German was conducted here, 1848-1858, by John Heinz.

Improvements are being made to the interior of the edifice at this time. Electric lights are being installed, the walls frescoed and other changes made. The original tract of land was undoubtedly donated by the Epler family, who owned the surrounding property and who were for many years prominent in the church. A cemetery of about six acres adjoins the church. A prosperous Sunday School, organized in 1875, is also connected with the church.

William Blatt is the present superintendent.

The Church officers are: Elmer W. Potteiger, Samuel J. Stoudt, Clinton F. Bagenstose, Harry H. Rothermel, Raymond V. Roth, Harvey T. Reifsnyder, William F. Balthaser, Walter Rothermel.



HINNERSCHITZ CHURCH

HINNERSCHITZ, MUHLENBERG TOWNSHIP

HINNERSCHITZ union church is located in the village of Tuckerton, about four miles north of Reading. It was built in 1849 in the township of Alsace. Two years later this part of the township was taken from Alsace and reorganized into Muhlenberg Township, named in memory of the pioneer Lutheran, Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg.

These forefathers felt that an ideal community must possess a house of God. To the larger number of people in this vicinity, the nearest church was Alsace union about three miles distant.

On May 3rd, 1845, the citizens of Alsace, Maiden creek and Bern townships, met at the home of Samuel Mengel in Maiden creek Township. At this meeting it was decided to build a church at the present location. Those taking part in this project were Michael Shalter, Jonas Schalter,

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

George Shalter, Nicholas Schaeffer, Peter Rothermel, Daniel Maurer, George Maurer, and John Zacharias. The members of the subscription committee were Michael Shalter, William Hinnerschitz and George Medlar. Armed with a written appeal the committee succeeded in getting subscriptions amounting to \$549.50. The appeal read: "Therefore we appeal to the friends of religion for support and aid in the propagation of the Christian religion. The object is to build a church in common for the advancement of Lutheran and German Reformed congregations. The church is to be entirely independent of the Theological Seminaries of Mercersburg and Gettysburg. The subscribers will become members in common in a deed of trust for themselves and their heirs forever. Therefore we appeal to all persons that have the welfare of the Christian religion at heart to aid the undertaking. Remember whatever we subscribe is lending to the Lord."

The building committee was composed of John Zacharias, George Maurer, Nicholas Schaeffer, Jonas Shalter and Peter Rothermel. The church, a square brick building, was completed in 1849. In style of architecture it resembled the old Belleman's church. One acre of land was donated by William Hinnerschitz, February 17th, 1849. Two additional acres of land were purchased in 1850. The church received the name "Hinnerschitz" through the donor of the property. The dedication took place on April 28, 1850.

An organ was purchased from Bohler & Son, Reading, August 30th, 1850. The present tower with bell was a gift from Catharine Maurer in memory of her deceased parents, Daniel and Mary Maurer, and her deceased bother, Daniel Maurer, Jr., in the year 1899.

This church building was remodeled and enlarged in 1910 at an approximate cost of \$10,000.00. Desiring to have a share in the improvement of the property, Christopher Shearer donated an oil painting which depicts the crucifixion and burial of Jesus at Golgotha (the place of the skull). This painting is recognized and appreciated as one of Artist Shearer's masterpieces.

In 1919, the Men's League canvassed all the members

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

of both congregations to pay off the church debt of about \$4000.00. The Ladies' Aid Society which had already done much to decrease the debt, again did its share. The Sunshine Workers likewise cooperated in this task. The purpose was accomplished. The event known as Old Home Day was celebrated June 12, 1920, and the mortgage was burned. On this occasion addresses were delivered by Clarence Rahn, Charles Manmiller, Rev. George S. Seaman, Rev. Elmer Leinbach, Rev. George Gerhard and Rev. Elbert E. Landis.

The Rev. George Gerhard is the present Reformed pastor.

The Lutheran pastors were Revs. R. L. Wagner, G. F. Jaeger, Thomas T. Jaeger, Benjamin D. Zweizig, and George S. Seaman. The present Lutheran pastor is Rev. Elbert E. Landis.

Hinnerschitz choir was organized and trained for a number of years by D. Warren Heckman, chorister. The organist during this time and at present is Miss Mary Rothenberger.

Each congregation has a missionary society. The congregations conduct a union Sunday School. The graded series is used in the course of study. Fred Ammarell is superintendent. A Daily Vacation Bible School was held last summer (1922).

ZION'S, MAXATAWNY

THE following translation of the historical introduction to the constitution, as found in the first Treasurer's Record Book, will serve to indicate the manner of the founding of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations at Maxatawny. "In the Name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

"Know all men by these presents, both the present as well as the future generations, the manner of the beginning of this union congregation.

"The lack of schools in this vicinity made it necessary to effect an arrangement for a schoolhouse. This came to pass October 20, A. D., 1817. In order to further this

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

necessary undertaking, Mr. Jacob Leibensperger gave three-quarters of an acre of land, situated in Maxatawny township, Berks Co., Pa., and bounded by lands of said Jacob Leibensperger, Daniel Siegfried, Peter Hehn, and along the Easton highway. Hereupon two trustees, on behalf of the supporters of the schoolhouse were chosen to establish a school arrangement. To these trustees, Daniel Hoch and John Siegfried and their successors in



MAXATAWNY CHURCH

office, as well as to the supporters of this school and their successors, the aforesaid Jacob Leibensperger and his wife Eva, gave a deed in trust, dated April 13, A. D. 1818, for the consideration therein mentioned (one dollar). Messrs. Matthias Leibensperger and Henry Metzger were then chosen as a building committee, and under their supervision the schoolhouse was erected.

"On second Christmas Day, 1826, the school constituency (Schul-Gemeinde) assembled for worship and with the object of establishing a union congregation. Rev. Chas. H. Herman, Reformed minister, was the preacher on the occasion and his sermon on the Gospel for the day was very suitable for the object in view. After the services a conference was held with reference to the building of an Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed church on the aforementioned land, and arrangements made to give all who favored the erection of a church, an opportunity to subscribe voluntarily what each desired to give.

"February 18, A. D., 1827, Rev. John Knoske, Lutheran Minister, preached on I Kings 8:18, 19, on which occasion the following building committee was chosen: Reformed, John Siegfried and Henry Metzger; Lutheran, Jacob Hefner and John H. Siegfried.

"Finally a day was appointed for the laying of the corner-stone, namely: April 13, A. D. 1828. Before this festival occasion however, the two evangelical congregations agreed upon the following articles, in hope and trust upon the help of God."

These articles of agreement (nineteen in number) under date of April 13, A. D. 1828, bear the following signatures: David Grim, Michael Fischer, George Smith, Jonathan Leibensperger, Johannes Fischer, Solomon Fischer, Charles G. Herman, Daniel Siegfried, Jacob Haasz, Moses Leibensperger, Peter Schaeffer, members. Building committee: Johannes Siegfried, Henry Metzger, Reformed; Jacob Hefner, Johannes H. Siegfried, Lutheran. Benjamin German, Lutheran Minister; Joseph S. Dubs, Reformed Minister.

No date is given when the church was dedicated, but article 19 provides that a short statement of the existing

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

government under which the church was built be recorded, and placed in the corner-stone. The following is the statement: "The Government of the United States of North America consists of a President, John Quincy Adams; a Vice President, John C. Calhoun; a Senate and House of Representatives. The government of our state of Pennsylvania consists of a Governor, John Andrew Shulze; a Senate and a House of Representatives. The seat of our state government is at Harrisburg, and our blessed country, the United States, is at present composed of 24 states, wherein civil and religious liberty prevail."

The church was erected at a cost of \$2007.62. Various improvements and additions to the church property were made at different times. In 1847 an organ was bought from George S. Krauss, and installed at a cost of \$771.71. Additional land was acquired as follows:

Dec. 15, 1828, by gift from Jonathan Leibensperger, $\frac{1}{4}$ acre; March 20, 1850, by purchase from Jonathan Leibensperger, 99 perches, price \$50; Sept. 16, 1865, by purchase, from Jacob Leibensperger, 1 acre, 16 perches, price \$250.00; Nov. 23, 1865, by purchase, from Solomon Kuhns, 75 perches, price \$117; May 24, 1881, by gift, from Matilda Kohler, 2280 square feet; June 30, 1890, by purchase, from Matilda Kohler, 25,980 square feet, price \$89.47; Feb. 5, 1902, by purchase, from Matilda Kohler, 45,694 square feet, price \$236; Aug. 30, 1919, by purchase, from Gerald J. S. Kohler, 1 acre, 18 99-100 perches, price \$251.64.

Thus gradually did the congregation come into possession of their fine burial place and church property.

November 14, 1889, steps were taken for the erection of a new church. At a union congregational meeting December 9, 1889, it was unanimously decided to do so and the building committee appointed consisting of Wm. S. Fisher, Percival N. Kressley, George L. Smith, and Garion G. Guldin. The corner-stone was laid May 18, 1890, and the building dedicated the summer of 1891. In 1922 this building was completely renovated at a cost of \$7000.

The congregations possess a complete and perfect financial record from the time of the organization in 1828.

Since this is the case in the matter of finances, it is rather surprising to the writer that he cannot find a record of the different pastorates. The following pastors have served the Lutheran congregation, but we are not quite certain of the earlier dates: Johann Knoske, 1827-1828; Benjamin German, 1828-1832; Isaac Roeller, 1832-1860; B. E. Kramlich, 1860-Jan. 1, 1900; F. K. Bernd, Sept. 1, 1900-May 2, 1921; Wm. S. Dry, Oct. 30, 1921 to---

These congregations have one record of which they may justly be proud, namely: their record of furnishing men for the Gospel Ministry. From the Lutheran congregation there have entered into the ministry: J. O. Leibensperger, St. Peter's, Bethlehem; W. W. Kramlich, Herndon parish; A. W. Leibensperger, Reamstown parish; George S. Kressley, Litt. D. of the Allentown High School; George R. Deisher, Jonestown parish; William H. Kline, Topton parish; Ambrose B. C. Hering, Settlement Work, Pittsburgh; A. M. Stump, St. Paul's, Red Hill.

The sister congregation has given Geo. W. Richards, D. D., LL. D., President of the Reformed Theological Seminary, Lancaster; and George W. Smith, the present pastor of Zion's Reformed congregation.

ST. PAUL'S, MERTZTOWN

FROM a deed dated May 3, 1837, we are apprised of the fact that Reuben Trexler, Iron Master, and his wife Anna, and Nathan Trexler and his wife Phoebe, gave to Jairus Haas, Treasurer of St. Paul's Church, and to his successors in office two tracts of land, one containing 2 acres and 130 perches, and the other 87 perches "for the sole purpose of building thereon a common church to worship God under the Lutheran and Presbyterian doctrine, and the residue to be used as a graveyard and a road to the graveyard and for no other use whatsoever."

The corner-stone was laid on Ascension Day, May 4, 1837. No date is given when the church was consecrated. The building committee consisted of Daniel Ginginger, Jonas Trexler, Jonathan Haas and John Diener.

The church record in which the names of the different members of the Lutheran Church Council appear has

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

the following: "List of the Lutheran Church Council who were still installed in the old Longswamp church, and who now serve as Elders and Deacons in the new church until their term of office expires and a new election is held: Elders—Reuben Trexler, Jacob Friedrich; Deacons—Nathan Trexler, Philip Vogely, Solomon Friedrich, and George Fritch."

From this it is evident that a Lutheran organization existed prior to 1837, that it worshiped in the Longswamp church, and that it is this organization which removed



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, MERTZTOWN

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

to Mertztown and built the present St. Paul's Church. The next record we have of the Church Council is that of April 21, 1838, when Peter Vogely and Benjamin Kercher were installed as Elders for a term of three years, and Samuel Kercher and John Drescher as Deacons for a like term.

St. Paul's Church also has in its possession the church record of pastoral acts. It bears the following title page: "Church Record of the Ev. Lutheran Congregation in Longswamp, Nov. 30, 1817." This record contains the baptisms from the year 1818 and cover a portion of Rev. Kramlich's pastorate. This also would indicate that the regular organization left Longswamp and built the present St. Paul's, and that the dissenting minority remained at Longswamp to continue their worship with the Reformed.

Unfortunately we have no record to verify the dates of the first pastorate. Tradition has it that Rev. Isaac Roeller was the first pastor. He served the Lutheran congregation in Longswamp. The Lutherans rented the building from the Reformed. "When the contract was again to be renewed, objections were raised, and so the Lutherans under Rev. Roeller went out, carrying some of the Reformed with them." He served St. Paul's until 1859.

We have a record of the second pastorate, namely that of Rev. Benjamin E. Kramlich. He was elected to St. Paul's April 12, 1860, and served until his death January 1, 1900.

Rev. Kramlich was followed by the late Rev. F. K. Bernd. The dates of his ministry at St. Paul's are Sept. 1, 1900 to May 2, 1921.

The present pastor is Rev. W. S. Dry, who is serving since October 30, 1921.

As for the Reformed congregation we are told that about the time of the completion of the building Rev. Chas. G. Herman effected an organization. The present Reformed pastor is Rev. M. H. Brensinger.

St. Paul's has given three of its sons to serve in the ministry: Rev. Wm. O. Fegely, pastor of the historic Trappe congregation; Rev. H. W. Warmkessel, pastor of Hope Church, Reading; and Rev. J. F. Kramlich, pastor of Grace Church, Royersford.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

The present building is the first. It was renovated about 35 years ago.

BECKER'S ST. PETER'S, RICHMOND TOWNSHIP

THIS church is called "Becker's" St. Peter's to distinguish it from St. Peter's Reformed Church close by. The latter building was used jointly by the Lutherans and Reformed for a number of years until about the year 1863 when a dispute arose between certain parties



BECKER'S ST. PETER'S CHURCH

in this Church, and the Lutherans were refused the use of the building any longer. Some of the Reformed members disagreed with their pastor, and they together with the Lutherans withdrew and built Becker's St. Peter's Church.

A plot of land containing two acres and eighty-five perches was surveyed in November, 1865 and presented to the Church by Henry Becker and his wife.

The congregation was organized April 4, 1866 when the Lutherans and the Reformed united to build for the purposes of their worship, a church, which is to be a union church between the two named congregations.

The corner-stone was laid May 27, 1866 in the presence of a large concourse of people, by the Reverends Jacob F. Wicklein, Lutheran pastor, and R. S. Appel, Reformed pastor. The building was completed in six months and dedicated November 25, 1866. The cost was \$6,000. This amount does not include the labor and material that were furnished gratuitously by the members.

A reed organ, costing \$800, was dedicated October 11, 1868. The cemetery was laid out in November, 1866 and dedicated Easter Sunday, 1867.

The first service by the Reformed congregation was conducted by the Rev. R. S. Appel in 1865, who has served continuously up to the present time—a period of 58 years.

The first Lutheran service was conducted by Rev. Jacob F. Wicklein, January 1, 1866, and the first Lutheran communion was celebrated March 31, 1867 when a class of 27 catechumens, confirmed the preceding day, received their first communion. Pastor Wicklein served the Lutheran congregation from its founding till his death in the fall of 1873, a period of about 8 years. He was accidentally killed by a falling limb while on a gunning trip to Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

From February 8, 1874 to April 24, 1904, the congregation was served by the late Rev. F. K. Huntzinger. During his pastorate of 30 years, various additions and improvements were made to the church property. Additional land for cemetery purposes was acquired from Joel R. Becker and consecrated June 9, 1889; the church was remodeled and renovated at a cost of \$1800, special reopening services

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

being held May 15, 1893; in 1898 the tower was built and a bell placed therein at a cost of \$1663, the dedication being held September 3, 1899.

Rev. F. K. Bernd served the congregation from May 1904 until his death on May 2, 1921, a period of 17 years.

The present pastor is Rev. W. S. Dry, who took charge of the congregation October 30, 1921.

A plot of 3 acres and 108 perches was bought for cemetery purposes from Daniel E. S. Dries and wife on July 21, 1921, the consideration being \$551.

The church is located on a high elevation in Richmond Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, near the well known Moselem Ore Bank and the Moselem Furnace, which was abandoned in 1885. The abandoning of this furnace was felt quite considerably by the congregation as it caused about 75 members to remove beyond the bounds of the congregation to seek employment elsewhere. The congregation at present has one student for the ministry in the person of Morris S. Greth.

ALLEGHENY, ALLEGHENYVILLE

THE Allegheny Church is located in Brecknock Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. It was founded in 1767. Prior to that time the people of that community held meetings in private homes and in the schoolhouse and were generally instructed by the school teacher of the community. It was only once in a while that a regularly ordained minister would preach to them and administer the Holy Sacraments.

The land on which the first church building was erected, together with the burial grounds, were obtained from Christian Bowman, a Mennonite, who at that time owned nearly all the territory known as the Allegheny Valley. The price paid for the ground was merely nominal.

The first church building was a log structure 30 x 40 feet, with but a few windows and no floor. It had no heating apparatus and the few seats it contained were made of rough chestnut boards.

The church from the beginning was organized as a

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

union church, consisting of Lutherans, Reformed and Mennonites.

In the year 1800 the old log building was replaced by a red sandstone building, of modern architecture and a much larger seating capacity to accommodate the rapidly increasing membership of the Lutheran and Reformed congregations; the Mennonite people, having in the meantime erected their own house of worship about a mile east of this church. This second building stood on the same site that the present building occupies; the log structure having stood about one-half block to the south. The building com-



ALLEGHENY CHURCH

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

mittee of this second church included John Ziemer and Henry Ziemer.

In the year 1878 the third and present building was erected with a seating capacity of 900. The building is of local sandstone and is 50 x 75 feet with galleries and a pipe organ. The corner-stone was laid May 23, 1878 and the church was dedicated November 15 of the same year. The building committee consisted of:—Henry Wagner, Aaron Kohl, Samuel Ziegler, Samuel Good and Jacob Zerbe.

In 1845 the church was incorporated and a charter was granted by the Berks County courts. The joint Church Council to whom the charter was granted included: Elders: John Gebhart, John Gougher, William Schweitzer, Absalom Eshelman, and John Zerbe; Deacons: Jacob Fritz, Peter Hertz, Levi Rathman, Daniel Hertz and Henry Kachel.

The cost of this edifice, exclusive of much labor, hauling and heavy timber donated by the members, was \$10,000.

In 1809 John Christian Ludwig Schäffer willed to the two congregations a farm of 82 acres two miles southwest of the church and also a certain sum of money. The will directed that the income of the farm and the interest of the money should be used to maintain a school for the free education of the young people of the community. This school prospered for a while but gradually went back because of a want of patronage and finally it was abandoned. The money and income of the farm have since been used for the improvement of the church; permission to do this having been obtained by a special decree of the court. Mr. Schäffer was born March 17, 1729 at Hartelhausen, Germany, and died March 10, 1814, in Brecknock Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. He was buried in the old graveyard to the south of the church and his burial place is marked by a large flat marble stone.

In 1900 the present edifice was greatly improved in appearance by being beautifully frescoed and painted. The ministers who officiated at the rededicatory services were: Dr. Henry Mosser, Reading; Rev. David K. Humbert, Bowers; Rev. Z. H. Gable and Rev. J. V. George, Reading.

The 150th anniversary of the founding of the Church

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

was observed September 9, 1917 and was an event long to be remembered. The church was beautifully decorated with evergreens and flowers. The congregations at all three services were very large. The ministers who officiated at these services were: Rev. R. B. Lynch, Kutztown, president of the Reading Conference; Rev. Edwin H. Romig, pastor of St. Andrew's Reformed Church, Reading and the two local pastors, Rev. J. V. George and Rev. Chas. G. Heffner.

Among the first people buried on the old burial grounds we find the following family names:—Fitterling, Hoshoner, Ziemer, Good, Ziegler, Wagner, Bowman, Kohl, Bixler, Schweitzer, Boehm, Schneider and Trostle.

Rev. J. V. George, D. D., has been pastor of the Reformed congregation since June, 1890.

The Lutheran pastors who served from 1767 to 1860 were:—Rev. Harpel, Rev. Thomas Iaeger and Rev. Reuben Wagner. On April 1, 1860 the Lutheran congregation elected Rev. Benj. D. Zweizig who served the congregation until the election of Rev. D. K. Humbert on August 11, 1867. Rev. Humbert served the congregation until the fall of 1872. Then the pulpit was filled by supply pastors until August 17, 1873 when Rev. Z. H. Gable was elected. Rev. Gable served this congregation faithfully until the day of his death, December 15, 1909.

The congregation was then again supplied by pastors of the Reading Conference, the Rev. F. K. Bernd, president. On April 18, 1910, Rev. Chas. G. Heffner, then pastor of the Washingtonville congregation, Danville Conference, was elected as pastor of this congregation. He has been the incumbent since July 1, 1910.

Rev. Howard I. Kern, pastor of Christ Church, Mahanoy City, is a son of this congregation.

ST. JOHN'S, MOHNTON



ON NOVEMBER 4, 1899 the Mission Committee of the Reading Conference called Rev. M. H. Stettler to work in Reading and its vicinity. On November 15, Rev. Stettler and Rev. M. C. Horine, D. D., secured the use of Henry Ruth's hall for worship in Mohnton. The first service was held in this hall on November 19, 1899 with 18

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

persons present. On December 10, 1899 the Sunday School was partly organized and the first Christmas service was held December 25 of that year.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized December 31, 1899 and the Luther League, February 14, 1900. On April 29, 1900 the Ladies' Aid Society decided to purchase the lot on which to erect the church building from Mr. George Schaeffer for the sum of \$200.00.

On May 10, 1900 the name St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was adopted. On June 22 the building committee met for the first time and application for incor-



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, MOHNTON

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

poration was made through Geo. M. Jones, Esq. June 27, 1900 the stakes were driven and the lines drawn for the foundation of the church. Ground was broken by Rev. Stettler on June 30, 1900. August 25, 1900 the charter of incorporation was granted by the courts of Berks County. September 2, 1900 the corner-stone of the church was laid. The pastor was assisted in these services by Rev. C. E. Kistler, Rev. J. W. Early and Rev. M. C. Horine, D. D.

On May 19, 1901 the church was dedicated. The following pastors took part in these services throughout the day:—Rev. William Ashmead Schaeffer, D. D., Rev. M. C. Horine, D. D., Rev. E. S. Brownmiller, D. D., Rev. Z. H. Gable, Rev. G. B. Hancher, Ph. D., Rev. H. W. Warmkessel and Rev. B. G. Welder. The building committee consisted of the following:—Jacob F. Kessler, Jacob C. Kessler, John Kirchman, Henry K. Ruth, Daniel Keller, Geo. Schaeffer, Samuel Griffith, Fred Bezler, J. A. Schonour, Daniel G. Messner and Frank W. Matz.

On May 9, 1909 Rev. M. H. Stettler announced his resignation, which was accepted June 1.

On August 7, 1909 Rev. H. A. Kunkel was elected pastor to succeed Rev. Stettler, and took charge of the congregation September 1, 1909. During Rev. Kunkel's pastorate a large reed organ with a water motor was installed. In October 1910 Rev. Kunkel tendered his resignation, which was accepted and he left the congregation November 10, 1910.

From that time on the pulpit was supplied by Rev. Chas. G. Heffner, of Mohnton, pastor of the Robeson Parish.

In March, 1911, Rev. Heffner was unanimously elected pastor of this congregation but was not installed until a proper re-arrangement of parishes in the western part of the conference had been made; and the Mohnton Parish, consisting of St. John's, Mohnton; Trinity, Gouglersville and the Allegheny Congregations had been formed.

Rev. Heffner has served as pastor since March, 1911.

On December 27, 1914 the mortgage resting on the church since its beginning was burned and the congregation was then free of debt for the first time in its history.

On December 30, 1916 at the regular annual congregational meeting it was decided to remodel and fresco the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

church building and install a pipe organ. Thus the auditorium of the church was enlarged by moving the primary room from the rear part of the auditorium to the basement which was then properly equipped for this purpose. An Austin, electric pipe organ was installed at a cost of \$6,500 including the remodeling of the building. Dedictory services were held on February 4, 1917 at which services sermons were preached by Rev. R. B. Lynch and Rev. A. M. Weber.



ST. JOHN'S PARSONAGE

The debt thus incurred was paid in full by the fall of 1921.

At a special congregational meeting held March 20, 1922 it was unanimously decided to build a parsonage. Competitive bids were received and Samuel Snyder received the contract to build it for the sum of \$10,500.00. The parsonage was occupied by the pastor and his family on March 19, 1923.

Rev. Freeland Hemmig, recently ordained, is a son of this congregation.



TRINITY CHURCH, GOUGLERSVILLE

TRINITY, GOUGLERSVILLE

TRINITY is an outgrowth of what was known as the Wyomissing Union Church of Gouglersville. This Union Church sprang from a Sunday School founded in 1846 by John Gougler, a faithful Lutheran. Mr. Gougler was interested in the manner in which the young spent their time on Sunday, and desired to improve their ways by organizing a Sunday School.

Four years after the organization of the Sunday School the community felt that a church should be built, and largely through the efforts of Mr. Gougler an organization was effected. It was decided to build a union church, Lutheran and Reformed.

John Gougler and William White, both Lutherans, were elected secretary and treasurer respectively.

The land for the church and the burial ground was donated by Samuel Schlabach. The members of the building committee were:—John Gougler, Lutheran; and Adam Grill and Cornelius Richwein, Reformed. The building was

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

of red sandstone and was erected at a cost of \$1,000.00, exclusive of much labor, hauling and heavy timber, which was donated by the members. The original communicant membership was eleven souls.

The name Wyomissing was selected because the church stands close to the head waters of Wyomissing Creek. The original building was removed in 1887 and a modern edifice erected at a cost of \$8000.00, exclusive of much labor, hauling and timber. The building committee consisted of Joseph M. Schonour, Samuel M. Hornberger and John Moyer, Lutherans and Franklin Schnader and Richard Hornberger, Reformed.

In the year 1894 a chapel was erected across the street from the church by the two congregations for the better accommodation of the Sunday School.

On November 5, 1908 at a joint meeting of the Church Councils the following resolution was adopted:—"Whereas the Lutheran and Reformed congregations of Wyomissing Church, Gouglersville, Pa., consider their union inadequate to promote their general welfare, and whereas each congregation feels that henceforth it can maintain itself; therefore be it resolved that a division of the church property be made in the following manner:—The said Reformed congregation shall receive the said union church with all its grounds and rights. The said Lutheran congregation shall receive said chapel and ground purchased for its erection, furthermore the Reformed congregation shall pay to the said Lutheran congregation the sum of Two Thousand Dollars." These resolutions were adopted at a joint congregational meeting held December 5, 1908 with the following result:—95 votes for separation and 29 against.

From this time on until the spring of 1917 the Lutheran congregation held all its services in the Sunday School chapel.

On January 6, 1917, at a congregational meeting the Lutheran congregation decided to tear down the chapel and build a new sandstone church on the same site.

On February 3, 1917 application was made to the courts of Berks County through J. Henry Zweizig, Esq., to have the congregation incorporated as Trinity Lutheran

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Church, Gouglersville, Pa. This charter was granted.

Ground was broken for the new church building on March 19, 1917. The corner-stone was laid June 10, 1917. Rev. A. M. Weber and Rev. H. S. Kidd having assisted the pastor in these services. The church was dedicated on July 21, 1918. Because of the illness of Rev. R. B. Lynch, president of the Reading Conference, Rev. Chas. C. Boyer, Ph. D., preached the dedicatory sermon. Revs. F. K. Bernd, A. M. Weber, B. G. Welder, J. O. Schlenker, J. V. George, D. D., and F. S. Longsdorf assisted the pastor in the services throughout that day and the following week.

The church building is 45 x 70 feet, with a Sunday School annex 30 x 45 feet, which can be easily thrown open and increase the seating capacity of the church greatly.

The church is built of Hummelstown sandstone with art glass windows, large pulpit recess and two anterooms and space for a pipe organ at a cost of \$25,500, exclusive of much labor, hauling and heavy timber donated by members and friends of the congregation.

Rev. J. V. George, D. D. has served the Reformed congregation since 1890.

The first pastor of the Lutheran congregation was Rev. Reuben Wagner, who served until the year 1860. On April 1, 1860 the congregation elected Rev. Benjamin D. Zweizig, who served the congregation until Rev. D. K. Humbert was elected Aug. 11, 1867, who served until the fall of 1872. Then the congregation was supplied by different pastors until August 17, 1873, when Rev. Z. H. Gable was elected, who served the congregation until December 15, 1909. The congregation was then again supplied by pastors of the Reading Conference until April 18, 1910 when the present pastor, Rev. Charles G. Heffner was elected.

FAITH, MOUNT PENN

THE reason for the organization of this Church was a flourishing Sunday School in what was then known as Woodvale, meeting in a schoolhouse at the intersection of 23rd Avenue and Friedensburg Road,

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

conducted by Trinity Lutheran Sunday School, Reading. It was upon the recommendation of the Chapel Committee of Trinity, composed of A. W. Potteiger, E. Burkholder, H. M. M. Richards, E. W. Gilbert, A. N. Kissinger, during the pastorate of the late Rev. J. Fry, D. D., that the church was built. Upon the completion of the edifice there was a great demand for Church services by the people in the neighborhood. The Rev. J. Fry, D. D., pastor of Trinity Church, Reading, with the consent of the vestry, secured the services of the Rev. Lewis Bickel, of Pottstown as preacher in Faith, Peace and Hope Churches. He began his work on Sunday, November 15, 1885. Faith Church served as a preaching station under the care of Rev. Bickel from November 15, 1885 until the day of its or-



FAITH CHURCH, MT. PENN

ganization, April 22, 1887. Rev. Bickel became the first pastor on the day of its organization.

The corner-stone of Faith Church was laid on Whitsunday, May 24, 1885, at 3:45 P. M. The church was dedicated by Rev. Fry, D. D., on Sunday afternoon, October 11, 1885. Rev. A. Richter of Rochester, N. Y., delivered a German address and J. Fry, D. D., an English address, to a large congregation.

The approximate cost of Faith Church was \$2100, besides the furniture. Faith Church was built and paid for by the members of Trinity Church and Sunday School. The method of raising the money was rather unique. The 19th day of April, 1885, was set aside as Chapel Sunday by the mother Church, on which day every member and friend of Trinity Church was asked to be present at one of the three services, morning, afternoon or evening, and make liberal gifts toward the payment of Faith, Peace, and Hope Churches. While several members gave \$500 each and several others \$250 each and a large number \$100 each, most of the contributions were in smaller amounts. On Chapel Sunday, the pastor preached on St. Matthew 17:4, "Let us here make three tabernacles". The card subscriptions for the three churches on that day amounted to \$5500. A beautiful toned bell was placed in Faith church, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Boyer in 1886.

Faith church was organized with 25 charter members and seven confirmations in 1887. During the 35 years of her history she has grown to a membership of 150. In her early history the growth of the borough was very slow and thus prevented a rapid growth of the congregation. Other reasons for the lack of development were the transient population in the borough; unwillingness of the people residing in Faith district, belonging to city churches, to unite with a small congregation and the inability on the part of the pastors to devote all their services to the congregation. Faith church was blessed, however, under these trying circumstances by the constant support of the mother Church until the time Faith and Peace Churches became a parish on July 9, 1916 and were aided by the General Council Board of English Home Missions. The greatest blessing that came to Faith Church as well as to Peace Church was the declaration to become a self-sustaining parish at a congregational meeting held January 11, 1920. Since that day greatest progress has been made by the Church and the parish. Faith Church added 84 members during this period, doubled her membership, trebled her finances, and has had the highest communion record in the history of the Church.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Rev. Bickel resigned November 1, 1890. On January 1, 1891, the Rev. H. W. Warmkessel, at the call of the Rev. J. Fry, D. D., pastor of Trinity Church, Reading, took charge of Faith Church, Woodvale, in addition to Peace and Hope of Reading. He served Faith and Peace Churches until June 1, 1898, when he resigned to take full charge of Hope Lutheran Church, Reading.

On June 15, 1898, Rev. Luther D. Lazarus assumed charge of Faith. He resigned December 31, 1901 to accept a call to St. John's Church, Nazareth, Pa.

On April 1, 1902, Rev. J. Franklin Snyder took charge of Faith congregation which he served until May 1, 1918 when he resigned to engage in mission work in Allentown, Pa. It was during this period that the population was rather transient and thus many members were added and transferred. In this long pastorate many changes and improvements were made to the church building. In 1904 a new platform and railing were erected, the church was painted, papered and electric lighting was installed at a total cost of \$450.

In 1907, \$200 was spent for paving along the east side, water connections, and a new supply of Church Books and painting. In 1912 basement improvements were made, costing \$110. In 1914-15 the church was completely renovated, including new carpet, folding doors, apse extension, new electric lighting system, painting, varnishing, etc., all of which cost \$1020. It was also during his pastorate that Faith Church became incorporated. This took place on October 2, 1916. The 25th anniversary of the organization of the Faith congregation was appropriately celebrated on April 22, 1922. The following ministers took part in the celebration: Revs. J. C. Seegers, D. D., W. H. Myers, Dr. C. C. Boyer, J. Franklin Snyder, Dr. Kuendig, and J. W. Early.

On June 9, 1918, Rev. Edgar Crouthamel assumed charge of Faith congregation, Mt. Penn, under joint call from Faith Church and Peace Church, Reading, and the General Council Board of English Home Missions. He resigned to accept a call from Advent Lutheran Church, Newark, N. J., November 30, 1919. During this brief pas-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

torate a new Estey organ costing \$600 was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, November 17, 1918. Pastor Crouthamel succeeded in collecting \$300 to be applied to a parsonage fund of the Church.

The present pastor, Rev. Raymond J. Heckman, was called on the 21st day of March, 1920, and was installed by the Rev. G. D. Druckenmiller, in the evening of June 14, 1920. In this pastorate, the interior of the church was completely renovated, including the repainting of walls, woodwork, costing \$425. The Common Service Book was introduced. A piano was bought by the Sunday School, costing \$190. During the summer of 1920 a house and lot ad-



FAITH PARSONAGE

joining the church were bought by the congregation costing \$1650. In 1921 a new parsonage was built on the adjoining lot by the members of Faith Church. The 35th anniversary of the organization of the congregation was celebrated in June, 1922. The following ministers were present: Revs. C. P. Wiles, D. D., C. E. Kistler, J. L. Deaton, E. P. Pfatteicher, D. D., Ph. D., Prof. C. C. Boyer, Ph. D., C. C. Snyder, E. C. Crouthamel, R. B. Lynch and Raymond J. Heckman, pastor. The apportionment of \$404 was raised 100 percent during this last year and special benevolence of \$92, a total of \$496.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Faith Church receives the benefit of a trust fund of \$5000 for 20 years established by the late Mrs. Sarah Eisenbrown, a former member of Trinity Church, interested in Faith and Peace Churches. Faith Church is unique in that most of the members until 1920 were related to one another. It has often been called "the family church". The congregation is well organized and according to the present indications an enlarged house of worship is needed in the near future.

PEACE, RIVERSIDE, READING

THE history of Peace Church is in many respects similar to the history of Faith Church. The building in which she worships was built like Faith Church, the pastors were the same and the support received from the mother Church was the same.

The reason for the erection of Peace church was due to a flourishing Sunday School, meeting in a public school-house in Riverside, conducted by Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading. Upon the completion of the church many requests were made for preaching. To comply with these, the Rev. J. Fry, pastor of the mother Church, with the consent of the vestry, procured the services of Rev. Lewis Bickel, of Pottstown, Pa., as pastor of Faith, Peace and Hope Churches. He began his services on Sunday, November 15, 1885. He continued to labor here until November 1, 1890, when he resigned to take charge of St. Stephen's Church, Wilmington, Delaware. Peace Church served as a preaching station until the date of its permanent organization, December 15, 1890.

The corner-stone of Peace Church was laid on Sunday, May 17, 1885, at 4 P. M. The church was dedicated by Rev. J. Fry, D. D., in the afternoon of September 27, 1885, when the sermon was preached by Rev. F. J. F. Schantz, a former pastor of Trinity Church.

The approximate cost of Peace Church was \$2100, besides the furniture. It was built and paid for by Trinity Church and Sunday School. The method of raising the money was rather unique. Sunday, April 19, 1885, was set aside as Chapel Sunday by Trinity Church, on which

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

day every member, and friend, of Trinity Church was asked to be present at one of the three services, morning, afternoon and evening, and make a liberal contribution.

A bell was place on each church presented by Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Boyer in 1886.

Peace Church was organized with about 25 charter members. Because of special trials in its early history there was no permanent organization until December 15,



PEACE CHURCH, RIVERSIDE

1890, when a meeting was called by those attending Peace Church, "for the purpose of forming a regularly-organized congregation". The Rev. J. Fry, D. D., pastor of the mother Church, was made chairman and Mr. Henry K. Wanner was chosen as secretary. Dr. Fry stated that the object of the meeting was to effect a regular organization of Peace Evangelical congregation. He presented provisional rules and regulations for the congregation, which were unanimously adopted. In the early history of the congregation there

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

were many trials because of the transient population and lack of leaders. The members were few but faithful and succeeded in developing and enlarging the congregation. Peace Church was blessed, however, during this trying period by the constant financial and spiritual support of the mother Church until the time Faith and Peace Churches became a parish and were aided by the General Council Board of English Home Missions, July 9, 1916. The greatest blessing that came to Peace Church, as well as to Faith Church, was the declaration to become a self-sustaining parish at a congregational meeting held in January, 1920. Since that day greatest progress has been made by the Church and the parish.

Rev. Bickel, the first pastor, resigned November 15, 1885. On January 1, 1891, the Rev. H. W. Warmkessel, at the call of Rev. J. Fry, D. D., pastor of Trinity Church, Reading, took charge of Peace Church together with Hope, Reading, and Faith, Mt. Penn. He served Peace and Faith Churches until June 1, 1898, when he resigned to take full charge of Hope Church, Reading. It was during his pastorate that we have the first communion record. At the first communion held, April 5, 1891, fourteen members received the holy sacrament.

On June 15, 1898, Rev. Luther D. Lazarus assumed charge of Peace congregation and served it faithfully until December 31, 1901. On April 1, 1902, Rev. J. Franklin Snyder took charge and served it until May 1, 1918, when he resigned to engage in mission work in Allentown, Pa. This was the longest pastorate in the history of the church. Many changes and improvements were made during these years. In 1915, '16 and '17, \$1179.78 was spent on basement equipment, painting, papering and other improvements necessary to the building. Pastor Snyder was very successful in collecting funds for these various undertakings. It was also during his pastorate that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peace received a certificate of Incorporation. This certificate was granted by the court of Common Pleas October 2, 1916.

On June 9, 1918, the Rev. Edgar Crouthamel took charge of Peace congregation, under joint call from Faith

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congregation, Mt. Penn, and the General Council Board of English Home Missions in North America. He resigned to accept a call from Advent Lutheran Church, Newark, N. J., November 30, 1919. In his pastorate a new Estey two manual reed organ costing \$600 was dedicated. This service took place on Sunday afternoon, November 17, 1918. Mr. Henry F. Seibert, organist of Trinity Lutheran Church, was the special organist for the occasion. The offering at this service added to the previously collected subscriptions totaled \$350.

The present pastor, Rev. Raymond J. Heckman, was called on the 28th day of March, 1920, and was installed by the president of the Reading Conference, the Rev. G. D. Druckenmiller, on Sunday morning, June 14, 1920. During his pastorate improvements to the church building, including complete basement excavation and equipment, installation of folding doors between church auditorium and primary room, painting of the church, etc., have been made at a cost of \$2000. The congregation with all its societies is well organized and a great spirit of love, loyalty, and hearty cooperation is found in the hearts of the members. Peace congregation has fully raised its apportioned benevolence this year. The amount, \$374, is more than treble compared with the amount raised in 1920.

Peace church as well as Faith Church receives the benefit of a part of a trust fund of \$5000 for 20 years, established by the late Mrs. Sarah Eisenbrown, a former member of Trinity Church, interested in Faith and Peace churches. Both Faith and Peace congregations owe a debt of gratitude to the mother Church for financial and spiritual support.

GRACE, ELEVENTH STREET, BELOW PENN,
READING

THIS Church celebrated its Quarto-Centennial conjointly with the 25 years' pastorate of Rev. William H. Myers, the founder, on October 25-27, 1903. A complete history of the origin and work of the congregation appeared in book form, and was placed on sale during this event—and from this book we glean the following data.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Mother Trinity organized a mission school in the public schoolhouse at 9th and Spruce Streets on July 5, 1868, which was the nucleus of a congregation 10 years later, styled "Grace"—the second child of old Trinity. A fine chapel



GRACE CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSE

was provided for this mission school on 11th street below Penn, into which it moved in the fall of 1878, and there Rev. Myers, who had previously been called as assistant to Dr. Fry, March 17, 1878, organized the congregation on the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

night of October 7, 1878, with 54 members enrolled. The constitution was adopted October 29, 1878, and at an evening service on Reformation day, October 31, 1878, the pastor and officers were installed, Rev. J. Fry, D. D. officiating.

On April 4, 1883, the Grace Lutheran Church Council, with the consent of Trinity vestry, declared the congregation free and independent, and by mutual help the ground debt of \$5000 was annually reduced, and paid off in full, when on October 6, 1888 the church was also formally incorporated.



CHIMNEY CORNER IN PARISH HOUSE

In 10 years the congregation had outgrown the capacity of the chapel; overflowing audiences compelled a larger edifice, so this gem of a chapel had to give place to the present ampuitheater church 80 x 100 feet, seating 1500 people. Its "crowded" capacity is 1800. The corner-stone was laid October 7, 1888, the Sunday School rooms were dedicated for service April 14, 1889, and March 17, 1890, the main auditorium was occupied. For 10 months Grace had its wanderings; worshiped awhile in the prison corri-

dors, then in the Court House where crowds were turned away; and then for 11 months and 2 weeks tarried in the Sunday School rooms; when at last the red-letter day came on Passion Sunday and Rev. G. F. Krotel, D. D., LL. D., preached the dedicatory sermon in the upper room, from the text, Eph. 2:8, 9.

Large things were always done by Grace. The period of 1890-1903 was no exception.

During the pastor's absence in Europe, 1891, a three manual pneumatic organ was installed. In 1899 a parish house uniquely furnished was added. A lot back of the church was bought. The congregation was a growing hive of active workers. A debt of \$27,000 had to be taken care of, which in 1899 resolved itself into \$18000 in interest bearing bonds. All obligations were canceled in 1920. So with an annual interest of \$1,458, a gradual reduction of the large debt; and the carrying of current expenses, it can easily be understood that in 25 years actual cash of \$175,000 was raised by a people who at first labored with small numbers.

To do all this, many original devices and activities in money raising were employed, and happy memories linger with the scenes. It was labor of love to Christ's cause.

The 25 year retrospect at 1903 was a landmark both for the congregation, and pastor. The dream of the large 16th century Gothic edifice did not disappoint in its uses, for great audiences came here to worship. The pastor rehearsed at this time that 2,334 persons had been confirmed and received by transfer. With the constant shifting of membership, by marriage, removal, backsliding, death or the forming of suburban missions, it was but normal to report a congregation of 1400. It was a large community event to celebrate the joint quarto-centennial of Grace Church and its pastor. The press heralded it by headlines and illustrations. The citizens who attended the various services came from all parts of the city and from all walks of life. The Rev. Dr. Krotel was again the principal speaker. He preached on the text, I. Cor. 15:10.

And now remains to be added to the above another 20 years' chapter in Grace's history for but 5 years more and the Golden Jubilee will be celebrated. The same pastor

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

who preached then preaches now. It is said that he is the only one in Reading who can be styled "the father of his own flock." Twenty years more of Church activity might add up a big sum but it hardly excels in brilliancy and joy of accomplishment, the era that went before. The builders laid good foundations and most of the veteran societies are today vieing with the new bodies in making real history. Great is the work done by the Luther Guild, Pastor's Aid, Luther Leagues, Orphans' Home Society, Sunday School (first and last), Brotherhood, Woman's Industrial, Boy and Girl Scouts.



HOLY SPIRIT, READING

APRIL 19, 1910 is the date when the first formal effort was made to launch this work. On the aforesaid day a number of Lutherans from the community centering at Fourth and Windsor Streets responded to an invitation of the sainted Dr. Horn, pastor of Holy Trinity, to form a Sunday School Association. The project found great favor with those present. An organization was effected and the following elected to office:—President, the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Rev. Dr. Edward T. Horn; Superintendent of Main Department, Frederick A. Marx; Superintendent of Primary Department, Miss Araminta Richards; Secretary, Robert L. Strohecker; Treasurer, Charles S. Eisenbrown; Librarian, Frank Yocum. A constitution for the Sunday School was adopted and the name of the Church decided upon.

Things were happening in rather close succession for Holy Spirit in the spring of 1910. The chapel built by Holy Trinity was dedicated on Sunday, May 1st, under the auspices of the mother Church. Services were conducted both afternoon and evening. On May 8th, the Sunday School held its first session and although the weather was not very favorable, 103 were present.

The first annual meeting of the Sunday School Association was held on June 2, 1911. At this time the committee on Church formation reported that the signature of 75 people had been obtained without making a regular canvass of the neighborhood. This was followed with a talk by Dr. Horn on the reasons for forming a new congregation, which was well received.

On March 14th, the Rev. Carolus P. Harry was elected as the first pastor. The congregation itself was not organized until September 30, 1911, when 120 men and women united their efforts in laying the foundations of this important work. On the same day a constitution was adopted and the following Church Council elected:—Charles S. Eisenbrown, Henry E. Hilbert, Sylvester G. Frederick, John W. Gilbert, Irvin Rader, Morris Hartman, Frederick A. Marx, Elmore A. Burkhart, and Walter H. Jones.

During the month of August, 1914, the present beautiful and commodious parsonage was occupied for the first time.

Pastor Harry having resigned, the Rev. Charles C. Snyder was elected his successor on October 15, 1917. He took charge on the 21st of the same month and was installed to office by the president of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania on December 16, 1917.

Somewhat prior to the beginning of Pastor Snyder's ministry the title of the Church property was conveyed to the congregation by the authorities of Holy Trinity. A

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

debt of \$3,700 that rested on the chapel was cancelled in a little more than two years. It was also during this time that the chancel was erected and the galleries added.



HOLY SPIRIT PARSONAGE

Pastor Snyder severed his connection with the congregation during the beginning of 1921. His successor, the Rev. Charles G. Beck formerly from North Wales, Pa., took charge on April 10th—Shepherd Sunday—the Second Sunday after Easter.

At the annual congregational meeting held on Monday, December 5, 1921, preliminary plans for a new church were presented and resolutions looking to the erection of the same adopted. In doing this, the congregation was greatly encouraged by a gift of \$3,500 from Miss Mary Kauffman given during the summer of 1921. Previous to this \$2,000 had come from the same kind source. The following permanent building committee was appointed by the Church Council:— Frederick A. Marx (chairman), Theodore C.

Abele, Jere L. Rice, Charles S. Eisenbrown, Sylvester G. Frederick (president of the Church Council), and Charles G. Beck (pastor).

The corner-stone was laid by the pastor on Sunday, July 23, 1922 in the presence of a large concourse of people. The addresses were delivered by the Rev. Dr. E. P. Pfatteicher, pastor of Trinity, and the Rev. R. B. Lynch, president of the Reading Conference. The new church is of the Italian Renaissance type of architecture. It seats 600 and cost about \$112,000. The entire building is one of great beauty. The dedication took place on May 13 (Sunday after the Ascension), 1923. Special services were held every evening during the week following excepting Saturday and concluded with Confirmation on the morning of Pentecost and the Lord's Supper in the evening. Those who filled the pulpit were the Revs. Dr H. A. Weller, Dr. C. M. Jacobs, Dr. J. A. W. Haas, Dr. E. P. Pfatteicher, R. B. Lynch, C. P. Harry, W. A. Fluck, C. C. Snyder, G. D. Druckenmiller, and C. G. Beck. Most of the pastors of the Reading Conference were in attendance.

HOPE, FRONT AND GREENWICH STREETS, READING

HOPE Lutheran Church is a product of the missionary activity of Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading, Pa. During the Easter season of 1885 a circular was issued by the Chapel Committee of Trinity Church. The committee was composed of J. Fry, D. D., pastor, A. W. Potteiger, E. Burkholder, H. M. M. Richards, E. W. Gilbert, A. N. Kissinger. In this circular it was stated that the Sunday School Association owned three plots of ground in different parts of the city. On these it proposed to erect three chapels, the average cost of each to be about \$2,000.

April 19 was set aside as Chapel Sunday for the purpose of raising the necessary funds. Dr. Fry, pastor of Trinity, preached a special sermon on Matthew 17:4. The subscriptions of the day amounted to \$5500. The contractor L. H. Focht, immediately began work. The corner-stone of Hope Chapel on Schuylkill avenue near Greenwich was laid on Trinity Sunday, May 31, 1885. It was dedicated on September 20 of the same year by the pastor, Dr. Fry, with

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the sermon preached by Rev. M. C. Horine, D. D. The building was 40 by 42 feet, brick laid in black mortar as high as the window sills, above that bevelled siding, and from the window heads to the apex of the roof cedar shingles. There was a main room, a primary room, a library and vestibule. The actual cost was \$2100 besides furniture.



HOPE CHURCH

By 1896 the growth of the congregation had been such that it was necessary to enlarge the building. Accordingly during this year 20 feet were added to the length of the building. It was reopened and rededicated on July 12th with the same pastors officiating as at the first dedication. The congregation now also secured a charter and elected its own pastor. Her pastors up to the present time had served as assistants to Dr. Fry even though all their

time and attention had been given to the chapels. The first assistant was Rev. J. L. Bickel who was pastor from 1885 to 1890. At this time he was succeeded by Rev. H. W. Warmkessel who continues as pastor at the present time.

During the summer of 1901 an organ was built for this chapel by Mr. Palm of Mt. Penn. It was dedicated on October 13, the pastor being assisted by Dr. M. C. Horine, President of Conference, Rev. J. W. Early, and Daniel Kaufman, a student of the Mt. Airy Seminary.

In the spring of 1904, the congregation again having outgrown its quarters, determined to change its location. A lot was secured at the corner of Front and Greenwich streets. Ground was broken for a new church in the latter part of May, 1904, and on July 3, the corner-stone was laid by the pastor. Addresses were delivered by Dr. M. C. Horine, Dr. Kuendig, Rev. F. K. Huntzinger, Rev. C. E. Kistler, and Rev. J. F. Snyder. On November 24, 1904 the basement was dedicated and on February 24, 1905 the church auditorium was consecrated. The latter services continued throughout the week and were participated in by the following ministers in addition to the pastor: Drs. Horn, Horine, Spieker, Fry, Kuendig, Hancher, Schmauk, Revs. Weber, Myers, Huntzinger, Kline, Yehl, Keever, Bickel, Hon. G. A. Endlich, Geo. M. Jones and E. S. Wertz.

The building is of Gothic architecture, built of hillside stone and trimmed with Indiana limestone. It has a seating capacity of 800 and cost \$35,000.

ST. JOSEPH'S, PIKE TOWNSHIP

THE exact date of the beginning of St. Joseph's or Hill Church is not known. Apparently it is one of the oldest Churches in the county and state. In the Hall. Nach. Volume 1, page 415 this statement is found: "Oley, where a beginning was made in 1704." Since Hill Church was originally known as "The Church among the Oley Hills" it is generally agreed that this is what is referred to in this report. It is known that there were a number of Lutheran settlers in this section between 1700 and 1710. There are a few families in this vicinity who to-day retain the land grants issued to their forefathers by Will-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

iam Penn in 1682. It is quite probable that these people had religious services at this early date even if no congregation was organized.



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

It is supposed that the first Lutheran pastor to visit these people was Daniel Falckner who came to America in 1700. It is also supposed that Gerhard Henkel who preached at Germantown, New Hanover, Manatawny and other places

also ministered to these people among the Oley Hills occasionally. The private records of John Caspar Stoever, showing a score or more of baptisms and other pastoral acts performed in this vicinity, make it clear that he visited these people at stated intervals. He was followed by Henry Melchior Muhlenberg who came to this section of the county quite frequently.

The records of the congregation show that on August 12, 1741 the Lutherans among the Oley Hills took up 50 acres of land for church and school purposes. In 1747 the first church, a log structure, was erected. A schoolhouse was also built. The Lutherans were aided in this work by other settlers living in the vicinity, the German Reformed being especially mentioned. As an evidence of their appreciation they extended to the Reformed the privilege of burying in their cemetery, of sending their children to school under the same terms as their own, and also of holding services in their church provided they were conducted by a regular pastor and not an impostor or a tramp.

A rather interesting transaction at this early period was the adoption of a resolution providing two keys for the church chest—apparently that part of the altar in which the sacred vessels were kept. One of these keys was for the elders and the other for the deacons. The elders at this time were Jacob Miller, Michael Haertlein, Conrad Boehm, Tobias Schall, John Gerber, Frederic Mayer, Tobias Mauch, and John Reitnauer. The deacons were John Gerber and George Shalter.

After 38 years had elapsed, in 1785, the congregation found it necessary to take steps toward rebuilding. Their church had become dilapidated and entirely too small. They now sold one-half of their property to the Reformed. They expressed their reasons for this action in these words: "Because they needed the help of the Reformed, and because they regarded it as their duty as a matter of Christian love, and also for the better promotion of the Kingdom of Christ." They now designated themselves as a union Church—an Evangelical Lutheran and a German Reformed congregation, called the Hill Church.

In 1786 the old log church was torn down and a larger

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

structure of stone erected. The building committee was composed of John Hoch, Lutheran and Conrad Meyer. Reformed. The architect and builder was Jacob Gerber. No date of dedication or corner-stone laying is recorded. The old log schoolhouse was torn down in 1796 and a stone building erected in its place. This building remained in



SOLDIER'S MONUMENT

use as a school until 1850 when the school directors of the township built a public schoolhouse. It is still continued in use as a residence for the janitor of the church.

In May, 1804 an eight-stop pipe organ built and installed by Mr. Dieffenbach was dedicated.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

By 1852 the second church building, after serving its purpose for 66 years, became inadequate to meet the needs of the congregation. Accordingly it was decided to demolish the old building and erect a new one also of stone. A contract was made with Frank S. Ebling of Muhlenberg township for the erection of a new church, 50 by 60 feet, for the sum of \$3950. This did not cover the entire cost of the building for the old structure was torn down by the members of the congregation and much of the material was used in rebuilding. The corner-stone was laid on Whitsunday, May 15, 1853. This building continues in use to the present time. In 1886 it was remodeled and a steeple and bell added.

After the World War the congregation erected a granite monument in memory of the soldiers who were in service and also planted 200 maple trees as a Memorial Grove.

The pastors who served the congregation are as follows: Supply pastors: John Caspar Stoeber, 1731-1734; Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, 1742; Lucas Rauss, 1752-1758; William Kurtz, 1757-1758. Regulars: J. H. Schaum, 1759-1762; J. M. Schmidt; Daniel Lehman, 1780-1782; Christian Streit, 1782-1785; J. F. Weiland, 1785-1789; J. C. Dill, 1791-1797; F. W. Geissenhainer, 1797-1798; Jacob Miller, 1808-1821; Conrad Miller, 1821-1852; Nathon Jaeger, 1852-1857; H. Wendt, 1858-1861; E. H. Snell, 1861-1862; A. D. Croll, 1863-1868; S. R. Boyer, 1869-1873; D. K. Humbert, 1874-1890; H. W. Warmkessel, 1891---.

The first Reformed pastor was Michael Schlatter in 1746. The present pastor is C. E. Bartholomew.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

ST. PAUL'S, PIKE TOWNSHIP

THIS church, located in Lobachsville in the northwest-
ern corner of Pike township, has always been a union
church. The articles of agreement provide for a
joint election of an equal number of trustees, elders and
deacons from each congregation.

On April 9, 1833, Samuel Lobach and wife, Esther,
deeded 58 perches of land to Daniel Hilbert, Jonathan Grim,
John Mast, John Heath, Henry Adams, Joseph Specht, Peter
Linn, and Jacob Meyer, in trust for St. Paul's Church, not



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

yet organized. A meeting of residents of the neighborhood, Lutherans and Reformed, had been held on March 26 at the house of Samuel Lobach, and it was decided to build a union church. On May 21, they held another meeting and elected Jacob Bieber, William J. Kaul, and Samuel Lobach a building committee. They also effected a formal organization and elected Joseph Specht, Jonathan Grim, Henry Adam, and Daniel Hilbert as trustees; John Mast, Peter Linn, and John Heath as elders; Jacob Gilbert, Jacob Sterner, John Braun, Philip Herzog as deacons.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

From this time on services were held regularly by Rev. I. Roeller, Lutheran, and Rev. L. Herman, Reformed minister. Work on the church building was not begun, however, until in April, 1834. The corner-stone was laid on May 3rd and the building was dedicated on October 11, 12 1834. This was a stone structure and erected at a cost of \$1200 in money. Practically all materials were donated.

In 1843 the entire church property including the cemetery was enclosed with a stone fence built at a cost of \$100.

In 1849 through the agency of David Lobach an organ was purchased. It was an organ that had been presented to the Reformed congregation at New Hanover by John Henry Sprogel, almost one hundred years previous. This organ was dedicated on June 9 and 10 with Rev. D. Kohler, Lutheran, and Revs. J. S. Herman and P. P. Hoffman, Reformed, officiating.

As the old church no longer served its purpose, arrangements were made to erect a new one in 1877. This was not erected on the same site as the old church but upon additional ground which had been given by David Lobach. The corner-stone was laid on July 29. The building committee was composed of David Lobach, Benjamin Yerger and William Gebel. The dedication took place on May 18 and 19, 1878. Sermons were preached on the 18th by Rev. Moyer and Rev. F. K. Huntzinger and on the 19th by Rev. G. F. Spieker, D. D. and Rev. L. Groh, D. D. This was also a stone structure with steeple and bell. This building is in use at the present time.

Apparently there was no regular Lutheran pastor during the first three years after the organization of this congregation. Rev. I. Roeller acted as supply pastor during this period. In 1836 Rev. Conrad Miller began serving as a regular pastor. He was also pastor of Hill Church. He continued until 1839 when he was succeeded by Rev. John Grim. Other pastors served as follows: Joel Grim, 1851-1852; George F. Miller, 1852-1853; G. A. Hinterleiter, D. D., 1853-1859; E. H. M. Sell, 1860-1862; A. D. Croll, 1862-1868; S. R. Boyer, 1868-1872; D. K. Humbert, 1872-1890; H. W. Warmkessel, 1890 to---. The first Reformed pastor was Lewis Herman who served from 1833 to 1860. At the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

present time there is no Reformed pastor and for several years no Reformed services have been held.

The first recorded communion service in 1833 was attended by 35 while by 1887 the growth had been such that 185 communed at a single service.

ST. JAMES', FIFTH AND CHESTNUT STREETS, READING

THE establishment of St. James' Lutheran Church, in the city of Reading, Pa., was effected November, 1850, when a congregational meeting was called for the purpose of organization.

The founder of the Church, Rev. F. A. M. Keller, was pastor from 1850 to the time of his death in 1864. His connection with Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading, as English pastor terminated in October, 1850.

After the organization of St. James' congregation, the Odd Fellows' Hall, Fifth and Franklin streets, was used as a place of worship until the present building was erected. A lot at the northeast corner of Fifth and Chestnut was purchased about this time and the deed executed May, 1851.

The work of building was pushed with great energy for a minute of the Sunday School Association informs us that the chapel was occupied by the school July 13, 1851, and the first service of the Church was held there the following Sunday, July 20. Thus within eight months this young congregation consecrated and entered upon the use of its chapel and within sixteen months the large and elegant church building was completed and occupied. The corner-stone of the church building was laid May 11, 1851. The building committee consisted of A. C. Hoff, Horatio Trexler, Rev. F. A. M. Keller; John Hoff, W. S. Fisher, Michael Fritz and F. B. Fichthorn.

"Not deeming," says Rev. Keller, "the Odd Fellows' Hall (where services were held from October, 1850, to July 1851) a suitable place for the administration of the Lord's Supper, the Church Council asked the Presbyterian Session for the use of their church on Good Friday evening for confirmation and on Sunday afternoon for the administration of the Holy Supper of our Lord which request was cheerfully granted. The first communion in the church building

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

was administered April 11, 1852, the edifice having been consecrated March 21, 1852, the Fourth Sunday in Lent."

After the death of Rev. Keller the Church was without a minister for seven months. A call was extended to Rev. F. C. H. Lampe and he accepted the same and began his work as the second pastor October 1, 1864. A special work was to be done in St. James' and each successive pastor seemed fitted for a definite and special task. The congregation was burdened with a heavy debt and the new pastor undertook to raise the money to pay this indebted-



ST. JAME'S CHURCH

ness. This effort was encouraged by Horatio Trexler contributing \$13,000 toward the payment of the debt. Many improvements were made to the church property at this time. The first organ (then the largest in the city) was purchased and the painting of the Transfiguration was presented by Horatio Trexler.

The Rev. Mr. Lampe conducted services in German and English. He was pastor of St. James' congregation from 1864 to 1867. As the Rev. Mr. Lampe had given timely notice of his intention to vacate the pastorate, the

Vestry was prepared to elect his successor and Rev. B. M. Schmucker, D. D., was chosen by a unanimous vote in September, 1867. He entered upon his labors about the first of October, 1867. Many members were added to the church during Dr. Schmucker's ministry. It was while he was pastor of St. James' Church that the Church Book was prepared, of which he was the principal editor. To this work he gave much of his time and study. As pastor of St. James' Church which supported him through the years devoted to the preparation of the Church Book, this congregation made the largest indirect contribution to this great work. His interest in Foreign Missions was impressed on the members of St. James' congregation both in the Church and Sunday School and regular contributions were made by the latter body for years before the organization of missionary societies. His second resignation, tendered to the Church Council March 1, 1881, was accepted and he removed to the Church of the Transfiguration, Pottstown.

At the suggestion of Dr. Schmucker, the Vestry extended a call to the Rev. M. C. Horine, D. D., of Danville, Pa. Having accepted the call he began his work September, 1891, and continued until 1908. His service was the longest of any pastor that served St. James' congregation. One of the first acts of his pastorate was the introduction of monthly envelopes for the gathering of offerings for the benevolent work of the Synod. In 1883 extensive repairs were made to the church building and in 1885 the property, 148 South Fifth street, was bought for a parsonage through a generous gift of Ephraim Armstrong. The first step was taken this year also, regularly to collect alms money. Boxes were placed at the doors to receive the free will offerings of the members, for the poor and at the same time a committee of seven ladies was appointed to do Inner Mission Work. In the years 1887 and 1888 a parish paper was published which was distributed gratuitously. It served a useful purpose, but no fund being provided for its publication, the paper was discontinued.

For several years, owing to the growth of the Sunday School, the question of enlarging the school room was talked of in a general way. January 14, 1891, it was re-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

solved to purchase the house adjoining the chapel on Chestnut street, in order to secure more ground. At a congregational meeting held April 18, 1892, a resolution to build a new chapel was adopted and a committee of nine was appointed to begin the work. The new building cost about \$18,000. The chapel was dedicated September 9, 1893, by the Rev. A. Spaeth, D. D., president of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

During Dr. Horine's time a mission was begun in Oakbrook which resulted in the formation of the Church of the Redeemer. St. James' people were also active in St. Paul's Mission conducted in St. John's Chapel, Cotton street. This is now St. Paul's Lutheran Church located at Sixteenth street and Perkiomen avenue. During Dr. Horine's ministry St. James' received a number of bequests that are of great service to the Church and have helped in a very material way. Besides the endowment, the memorial windows in the chapel and the reredos in the Sunday School room were gifts from friends who loved St. James' Church. The brass lectern was given on the fiftieth anniversary.

The seasonal altar covers, the altar cross and vases were procured through the generosity of members. The font was also a memorial gift. The other altar furnishings and the altar were presented during the pastorate of Dr. M. L. Zweizig.

The fifth pastor of St. James' congregation was the Rev. M. L. Zweizig, D. D. He took charge February, 1909, and was installed April 25th. During his ministry the cement paving around the church and parsonage was laid, trees were planted, thus adding much to the appearance of the property. The duplex envelopes were adopted during Dr. Zweizig's first year. The constitution was amended to allow all qualified members over twenty-one years of age to vote.

In 1911, Arthur Wittich after thirty-five years of service as organist, tendered his resignation which was accepted with regret. October 1, 1918, the Common Service Book was introduced. At a congregational meeting held October, 1919, it was decided to make alterations to the chapel. Architect George Gerhard prepared the plans and the present structure shows the result achieved.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Rev. R. B. Lynch, president of the Reading Conference, presided at a congregational meeting held January 5, 1923. This meeting was called for several purposes: First: To take final action on the resignation of Dr. Zweizig, and anything pertaining thereto; Secondly: The sale of parsonage and selecting another one; Thirdly: The election of a new pastor.

The Rev. Henry K. Lantz having been placed in nomination was elected. A parsonage was bought at Northside, 110 Summit street. A weekly calendar was inaugurated and a circular letter sent out announcing that Rev. Mr. Lantz would begin his work at St. James', February 18, 1923.

St. James' congregation has given five men for the ministry: The Revs. M. L. Zweizig, J. M. Horine, Charles J. Gable, Luther D. Gable, and D. H. Frederick.



ST. JAMES' PARSONAGE

The following organizations are connected with St. James' and have proven a great blessing: Sunday School, Ladies' Aid Society, Young Peoples' Guild, Woman's Missionary Society, and Children's Missionary Society.

Dr. Zweizig continued his work until he was stricken with illness March 3, 1922, and for nearly a year the spiritual needs of the congregation were ministered to by Dr. C. T. Benze, Dr. E. E. Fischer, Rev. W. L. Laub, Rev. J. O. Henry, and others. Rev. Zweizig tendered his resignation in September, 1922, to become effective October 1, 1922.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

ST. JOHANNES, WALNUT AND CHURCH STREETS, READING

“**D**EUTSCHE Evangelisch-Lutherische Sankt Johannes Gemeinde” is the official name of this congregation. Its very charter title indicates the origin and the linguistic character of this congregation in using the German language, as the language of its services, even up to the present day. Its church which is a large building of fine architecture, with a massive stone front and a beautiful interior modernly equipped, with a



ST. JOHANNES CHURCH

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

parochial school building, now used for Sunday School purposes, attached to the rear, is located on Walnut street, between Fifth and Sixth streets. It is built on an old burial ground which the congregation received as its inherited share of property rights from the old mother-congregation, Holy Trinity, from which it separated as a daughter-congregation.

The congregation was organized in the year 1860 by the Rev. Dr. J. J. Kuendig. Pastor Kuendig, a native of Switzerland, who had prepared himself for the Foreign Mission field at the Mission School Crischona near Basel, came to this country in 1859 and served for one year as assistant to the Rev. Dr. J. Shantz at Holy Trinity Church, because the congregation at that time was yet largely German and needed preaching and pastoral service in the German language. The necessity of a purely German congregation in the city of Reading became evident, and so the German members of Holy Trinity congregation effected a peaceful settlement and separation from the mother-congregation, and under the leadership of Pastor Kuendig organized "Die Deutsche Evang. Luth. St. Johannes Gemeinde."

In spite of great difficulties during the troublesome year 1861, when the Civil War began, the congregation succeeded in building its church, which was dedicated on the First Sunday in Advent, 1861. During the same year also the congregation bought a piece of land of five (5) acres, situated near Thirtieth and Cotton street, to provide for a burial ground. The young congregation made very rapid progress in its growth and added from year to year to its equipment. For two years the congregation was satisfied to listen to all sorts of musical instruments accompanying its services, but then the people rose with a will to buy a new, fine organ, which was dedicated with appropriate rejoicing during Easter time, 1863. This organ with various repairs and rebuildings served its purpose for over 50 years, until it was supplanted by a magnificent Austin Organ in 1920.

After the congregation had its organ, it was just as eager to have its bells and immediately undertook the task

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

of getting the funds together for three bells, which were bought and dedicated the following year, on July 24, 1864. The bells were hung in the steeple which at that time was not yet completed. Surely, after having procured the bells, the steeple could not remain unfinished, and behold, the new task of building the steeple was accomplished by this young, enterprising congregation during the next three years.

As most of the members of the congregation owned their burial lots on the congregational cemetery, the need of a chapel close to the cemetery grounds for the purpose of funeral services was felt, and so a chapel was built and



ST. JOHANNES AND TRINITY CEMETERIES

dedicated in 1874. Since that time until the present day this chapel is also used every Sunday for Sunday School purposes and for occasional services once a month.

One of the main sources of growth and vigor in the life of St. John's has been its parochial school. It was organized as early as 1865, the fathers realizing how much religious training, as well as training in the German language meant for the future of the congregation, and it was especially through the faithful and efficient service of Mr. Karl Womberger, who was the principal of the school and the organist of the congregation for thirty-three years, that the parochial school proved to be such a blessing to the congregation. The school survived even the World

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

War in spite of much anti-German feeling; but the difficulty in providing an adequate teaching force and the decreasing number of children attending forced the congregation reluctantly to close the school, that had been such a stronghold of its congregational life from the very beginning.



CHAPEL ON COTTON STREET

St. John's in Reading is renowned for its three wonderful German cathedral bells. These new bells were bought and dedicated in 1905. In the year 1904 the steeple struck by lightning had burned down, in which calamity the old bells suffered so much damage as to be rendered useless. It is worth noting that the new cathedral bells, which are of cast steel and which were bought from a German firm in Bochum, Germany, are the very bells which were on exhibit in the World's Fair at St. Louis, 1904, where they rang from the belfry of the German Building and charmed every visitor of the fair with their wonderful tone. To these magnificent bells the members of St. John's have added since 1920, a new modern three-manual electric pipe organ, just as magnificent as the bells in its volume and

quality of tone. The organ was built by the Austin Company, Mass., and was dedicated on the First Sunday in Advent, 1920. It helps to keep up the musical tradition of the congregation, which always had the good reputation of a "singing congregation".

In this brief history several festival occasions might be mentioned, which marked epochs in the congregational development and made a deep impression on its life, such as the 25th anniversary in 1885; the Golden Jubilee in 1910; the dedication of the new bells in 1905; the 400th anniversary of the Reformation in 1917, and the dedication of the new organ in 1920. The congregational jubilee festivals were remarkable also through the fact, that they were personal jubilee celebrations of Dr. Kuendig, the founder of the congregation, who had remained the senior pastor of the congregation to the end of his life in June, 1917, serving as active pastor up to 1912, over 50 years. From 1884 on, however, during the second period of Pastor Kuendig's active ministry, the congregation had the service of a number of assistants or associate pastors. Their names and years of service are as follows: Pastor N. Ander, 1884-1885; Pastor A. Hellwege, 1887-1891; Pastor Ph. Hoh, 1891-1893; Pastor O. Kleine, 1893-1895; Pastor R. Bielinski, 1895-1900. Pastor Philipp Kirchner, 1902, until the present time. Pastor Kirchner was associated with Dr. Kuendig in active work ten years up to 1912, after which time he took over the active work of Dr. Kuendig, who remained senior pastor emeritus for five years until his death in 1917; since that time Pastor Kirchner has had sole charge of the work. He is now connected with St. John's twenty-one years, and it is worth noting that St. John's is his first and only charge since he entered the ministry in 1902.

Since 1918 English Evening services have been introduced and are held twice a month. Likewise in Sunday School and catechetical instruction the English is used more or less, in order to comply with the necessities of the younger generation. The main services, however, are still held in the German language which is still fundamentally necessary for the congregation as it is constituted at present.

St. John's is a well organized congregation, having its various organizations, such as a well grouped Sunday School; Saturday Afternoon School; Young Folks Society; Ladies' Aid Society; Orphans' Home Society; who are all very actively and successfully engaged in congregational and charitable work.

ST. LUKE'S, NINTH STREET NEAR GREEN, READING

THE nucleus of the congregation was from a Sunday School, begun in 1862, which met in a schoolhouse on Tenth street near Green. The Sunday School had been organized by a Lutheran Mission Society, which was composed of the teachers of Trinity, St. Matthew's and St. James' Sunday Schools for the establishment of Mission Schools in various parts of the city of Reading. Ground had been purchased by this Mission Society on Ninth street near Green for a building, and very little had been paid on it when this Mission Society was approaching the point of dissolution. The dissolution took place in the summer of 1865 and Trinity Church, Dr. Jacob Fry, pastor, took over this Sunday School and raised money to pay for the lot which was in danger of being lost to the Church. The entire cost of the lot was \$600. Mr. Solomon L. Moser, who had been superintendent of Trinity Sunday School was now put in charge of this School.

Soon after assuming charge of the work and seeing the necessity of providing more ample accommodations for it, it was decided to build a frame chapel on the lot already purchased. In 1868 plans were adopted and work begun in the spring. The corner-stone was laid by Dr. Fry, assisted by Rev. T. T. Iaeger, on July 26, 1868. The building was frame 30 by 50 feet and was surmounted by a steeple. It was called "The Chapel of the Reformation" and cost with the lot \$3,600. The dedication took place on the festival of the Reformation, Saturday, October 31, 1868, the sermon being preached by Rev. J. H. Fahs of Allentown. The Mission Sunday School on North Tenth street was transferred to this chapel, and public services were held in it every other Sunday afternoon by the pastor of Trinity and other

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

neighboring pastors, and Sunday School sessions were held every Sunday.

In 1869, Rev. F. K. Huntzinger was called as a missionary to this work with the view of organizing a congregation at some future time. He had been ordained May 26, 1869.



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

and began his labors here June 5, 1869, serving this Mission and four other congregations. The attendance at the public services for the greater part of the first year was small, often not more than ten or fifteen persons being present.

This section of the city had just been laid out and only a few houses were near the church; but as the section was rapidly improving the attendance at the services increased accordingly; so that on Thursday, January 12, 1871, an organization into a congregation was effected. Dr. Jacob Fry presided at the meeting, and Rev. F. K. Huntzinger acted as secretary. At this meeting the constitution recommended by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania was adopted and Rev. F. K. Huntzinger was elected pastor. The first vestry was John Samsel and Jacob Bissikummer, elders; Solomon L. Moser, J. D. W. Witman, J. D. Maurer and Franklin B. Himmelreich, deacons. There were 37 enrolled at this organization meeting as members. The name of the congregation was at this time changed from "The Chapel of the Reformation" to "St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Reading, Pa.", which it has had ever since, though in later years it has become widely known as "Huntzinger's Church". The first class of catechumens numbered twenty-five persons and was confirmed on Good Friday, April 21, 1871.

"Thus was the beginning of this work. St. Luke's was the first congregation that sprang from Trinity without previous friction or a disturbance of peaceful relations." Dr. Fry said,—“it was the first congregation directly planted by Trinity and some of its members.”

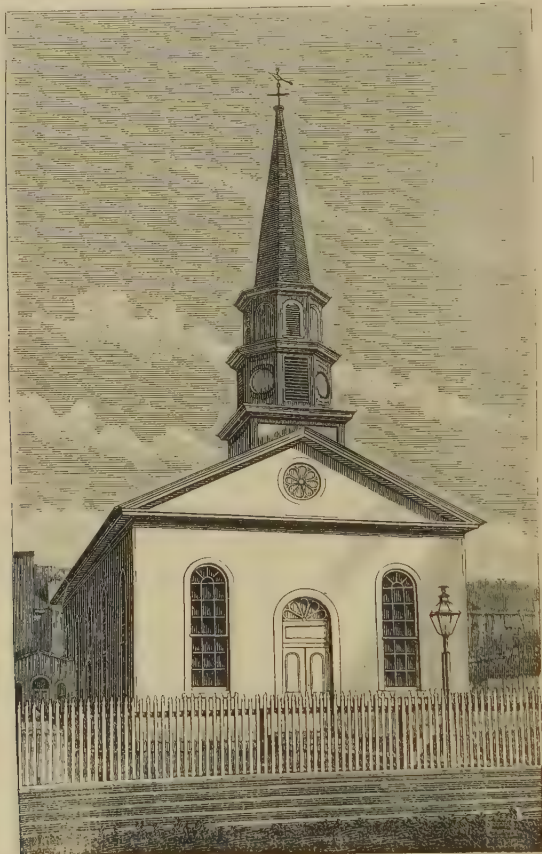
The progress and growth of St. Luke's after its organization was so rapid that in 1874 the building had to be enlarged by adding fifteen feet to the depth and introducing galleries on three sides, making a total seating capacity of 600.

The congregation was incorporated under the laws of Pennsylvania and received a charter on March 19, 1877. On January 10, 1879, Trinity Church executed a deed transferring the lot and chapel on Ninth near Green street to St. Luke's congregation.

During the next few years St. Luke's grew by leaps and bounds, and a new and larger building became imperative. The closing services in the old church were held on Sunday, May 2, 1886, and the work of taking it down began the next day. The congregation held its services during

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

the erection of the new church in the Boys' High School; and the Sunday School held its sessions in the two public schoolhouses at Tenth and Green streets. The corner-stone of the new church was laid Whitsunday, June 13, 1886, at 3:30 P. M. by Rev. F. K. Huntzinger in the presence of about 5,000 persons. The basement was formally opened for



THE OLD CHURCH

Divine service on October 10, 1886. The new church was consecrated by the pastor Sunday, February 13, 1887, the sermon being preached by Rev. Dr. J. J. Kuendig. The church is surmounted by a large square brick tower in which was placed a large fine toned bell. The seating capacity of the church is 1,000.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

In 1893 a large fine pipe organ procured at a cost of \$2,700, was placed in the west end of the gallery and was dedicated February 12, 1894. Mrs. Leah Samsel having left a legacy of \$600, it was used as a part of the purchase money.

During these years the congregation prospered to an unusual degree. The church though large was filled to overflowing, special seats in the aisles being necessary. The catechetical classes from now on never or seldom numbered less than one hundred. In 1899 considerable changes were made in the vestibule. Instead of a single door and two stairways, three doors and two additional stairways were provided. About that time also additional room for the Sunday School which had grown apace with the congregation, was procured by fitting up the second floor above the former primary room with galleries, and throwing the lower space into the main room.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the ordination of the pastor was celebrated on June 5, 1894 in a fitting manner. Likewise the fortieth anniversary of the ordination of the pastor, and also that many years of continuous service in the one congregation was commemorated with special services in the church on June 13, 1909. Of special note however, was the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of the pastor, Rev. Dr. F. K. Huntzinger, and of his fifty years continuous and successful service as pastor of St. Luke's Church. This great event was celebrated with special services in the church on June 1, 1919. The church was filled to overflowing at all three services of that day, the edifice was handsomely decorated with greens and flowers, and as a token of appreciation Dr. Huntzinger was presented with \$1,000 by the congregation.

After having served St. Luke's as its first and only pastor for fifty-one years and eleven months of faithful, loving, kindly service, Dr. Huntzinger, loved not only by the members of his Church, but by the whole community was called to the Church Triumphant by his Master on May 2, 1921 after a few months' illness. The splendid record of lengthy service in one congregation; and the number of accessions and pastoral acts has seldom been equaled and

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

calls for special recognition. Dr. Huntzinger baptized 9,732; confirmed 5,231; married 4,277 couples, and buried 4,984. During the illness of Dr. Huntzinger he was elected pastor emeritus with full salary by the congregation on April 18, 1921.

After the death of their only and beloved pastor St. Luke's was like a flock without a shepherd and serious difficulties were encountered which threatened the future



ST. LUKE'S PARSONAGE

of this congregation. Finally by God's guidance Rev. Wm. Albert Fluck, pastor of the Lower Tinicum Parish in Bucks County, Pa., was elected pastor and took up his duties in St. Luke's January 1, 1922. New life and vigor was at once manifested in the work of the congregation and peace and progress was everywhere evident. A parsonage located at 507 North Ninth street was purchased on February 1

and paid for in full by July 1, 1922, the cost having been \$10,000. The attendances again filled the large church.

The organizations of St. Luke's are a Sunday School which enrolls 1025 members; a Luther League with 350 members; an Orphans' Home Sewing Society with 337 paying members; and a Mite Society with 223 members.

During the World War there were 214 of St. Luke's men in the service of the nation. There are two students preparing for the ministry, and two young ladies in the diaconate. Two Scholarships have been raised and placed at Muhlenberg College, called the "Dr. Huntzinger Memorial Scholarships" for men preparing for the ministry.

ST. MARK'S, TENTH AND WINDSOR STREETS, READING

THE Rev. E. S. Brownmiller, Ph. D., D. D., feeling the pressing need of a Church in the northeastern part of the city of Reading began to conduct services in the school house at Tenth and Douglass streets on Sunday, December 1st, 1889. These services continued for but a short time when the congregation was formally organized. This took place on January 31st, 1890, at which time a constitution was adopted and officers elected. These men were properly installed one week later, February 2nd, 1890. At a regularly called, congregational meeting which was held Monday, February 17th, Dr. Brownmiller was unanimously chosen pastor of the newly established Church.

In most cases, the Church is an outgrowth of the Sunday School. Here the order was reversed, the Sunday School being organized on February 9th, 1890.

During this same general period of time Mr. and Mrs. William A. Arnold also felt the need of a Church in this part of the city and so presented a lot, located on Oley street above Eleventh, to Holy Trinity. The afore-said lot was afterwards exchanged for another and more costly one at the northeast corner of Tenth and Windsor streets. This property was later on presented to St. Mark's congregation and upon it stands its present structure.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

The corner-stone of St. Mark's was laid on November 16th, 1890, and the dedication took place May 31st, 1891.

During the year 1900 the edifice was enlarged by adding a second floor which on account of the good height of the building could easily be done. At the same time a rear gallery for the main auditorium was constructed, art



ST. MARK'S CHURCH

windows placed and comfortable pews installed. The same was dedicated, August 26th, 1900. The principal speaker was the Rev. Dr. George F. Spieker.

A month later, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the pastor's entrance into the ministry was observed and also the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Church. The Rev. F. K. Bernd preached in the morning and the Rev. J. R. Dimm, D. D., in the evening.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

The Rev. Martin Luther Brownmiller immediately upon his ordination became his father's assistant in June, 1904.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of Dr. Brownmiller's pastorate of St. Mark's was elaborately celebrated, February 21st to 24th, 1915. The chief speakers were the Revs. Prof. J. A. W. Haas, D. D., LL. D.; J. O. Henry, and M. C. Horine, D. D.

ZION'S, MARION TOWNSHIP

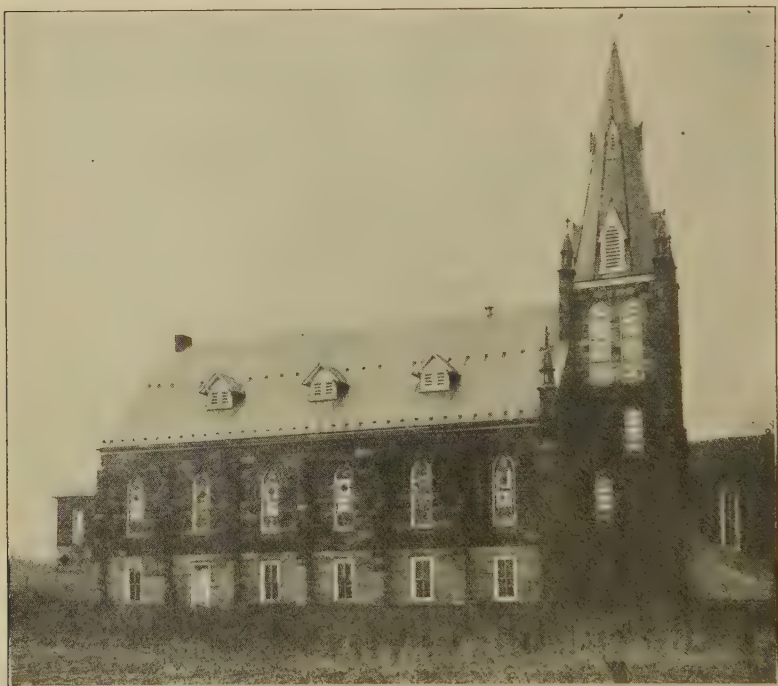
IN THE year, 1710, the larger number of immigrants that came to America, settled on the shores of the Hudson river. In the spring of 1712 one hundred and fifty families moved from the Hudson to Schoharie, west of Albany, where they settled among the Mohawk Indians. On their arrival they were wholly destitute of the necessities of life and in consequence suffered greatly. In Schoharie they received permission from the Indians to improve the land and build houses. However, in doing this work, they failed to comply with the formalities of the law of New York and so the titles to their properties were defective. In order to right all this, they sent a delegation to England in 1718. One of the members of this party was John Conrad Weiser, the father of the well known Indian agent, Conrad Weiser. Having been captured by pirates and thrown into prison for debt, he did not return until 1723. He and his companions failed in their mission.

About this time they heard of unoccupied lands in Swatara and Tulpehocken in the province of Pennsylvania and being invited to settle here by Sir William Keith, the governor of Pennsylvania, thirty-three families left their houses and farms in Schoharie and under the guidance of friendly Indians journeyed in a southwestern direction through thick forests until they arrived at the Susquehanna river. They came down the Susquehanna in rafts to the mouth of the Swatara creek, now the site of Middletown, Dauphin county. From thence they came up the Swatara. Eventually they drifted to the banks of the Tulpehocken. Here, in this fertile region close to where Mill creek empties into the Tulpehocken, they settled during the spring of 1723. These were the first white inhabitants in this sec-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

tion. In this place they commenced the world anew. Five or six years later they were followed by others from Schoharie foremost among whom was Conrad Weiser who took such a deep interest in both religious and civic affairs. With his sons he settled a short distance below what is now Womelsdorf.

The Tulpehocken region was named after a tribe of Indians called Turpyhockin who inhabited it, whose chief



ZION'S OR REED'S CHURCH

was Manangy. He was called the Indian chief of the Schuylkill. Through it led an important trail from the Indian village of Peixtan on the Susquehanna to the city of Philadelphia.

The majority of Germans who emigrated to America were religiously inclined. Most of them had left their native land because of religious persecution. To this class belonged the Lutherans of the Tulpehocken district. Hence

in 1727, four or five years after their coming, they united in adopting measures to erect a Church. A meeting was called for this purpose to which brethren living within a radius of twenty miles were invited. The gathering took place in a log fort on Mill creek near Newmanstown.

This fort was the work of Benjamin Spicker. It was a place where the German settlers of Mill creek, Tulpehocken, and those residing along the Blue mountains were accustomed to assemble in order to consult on important matters or to protect themselves against the attacks of their enemies.

This meeting was largely attended. The men were accompanied by their wives and children as it would have been unsafe to leave them unprotected in their respective homes. They were armed with all kinds of weapons to protect themselves in their journey. Among those in attendance was the Rev. John Caspar Stoever from Lancaster county.

The meeting was opened with singing the battle hymn of the Reformation "Ein Feste Burg Ist Unser Gott." Pastor Stoever then led in prayer. Adam Reith (Reed) presided and stated the object of the gathering. Upon motion of George Scholl it was unanimously resolved to erect a house of worship on a piece of land offered by the brethren Rieth.

In a week's time both young and old were busily engaged in this great work. Some felled the trees, others dug the foundations, and still others cut the stone. It is even said that the women rendered assistance by carrying water from the Tulpehocken creek. In less than five months the church was ready for occupancy. Christopher Lechner superintended the entire work. The church was a small log building and was but coarsely furnished. The pulpit was made of rough boards, the clergy chair was a block of a tree, and the pews were of logs. A special word must be said about the communion table. It is still in existence. This table is of solid walnut. Not a single nail was used in its construction. It is 30 inches high by 34 and 48 in width and length. The church stood on the east side of a prominent elevation and could easily be seen from great

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

distances. It was dedicated the latter part of October, 1727, the Rev. John Caspar Stoever, officiating.

In 1744 a stone edifice, 24 feet square was erected. It stood near the northeast corner of the graveyard. The spot can yet be designated. It remained in use for 93 years when it was damaged by a storm. In 1837 the congregation decided to build the church still remembered by many. A stone in the west wall bore the inscription "Die Zion's Kirche, Erbaut im Jahr 1837."

A charter was obtained by the congregation in the year 1846 under the name of "Zion's Lutheran Church". The same was granted by the courts of Berks county.



OLD COMMUNION TABLE

At present the congregation worships in its fourth edifice. This house of worship stands at the eastern end of Stouchsburg about half a mile from the old site. The corner-stone was laid on October 27, 1895. Upon this occasion the pastor was assisted by the Revs. Dr. M. C. Horine, Dr. G. F. Spieker, D. D. Trexler and J. W. Early. In the fall of 1900 the basement was dedicated. The sermons were delivered by Pastors Horine and Bernd. The entire structure was not completed until 1911. It was dedicated on the 22nd day of October of that year. The principal addresses were delivered by the Revs. Drs. M. C. Horine, G. F. Spieker, and T. E. Schmauk. Upon this occasion, the pastor, Dr.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

E. S. Brownmiller celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ministerial connection with the congregation.

The pioneers of Lutheranism in this vicinity also took a great interest in educational matters. A private school was established by Christopher Lechner and Adam Reith. It was kept at the house of the former. Soon after this



THIRD CHURCH BUILDING

the congregation organized a parochial school. The first teacher was Jacob Hannmer, a native of Manheim, Baden. The schoolhouse that was erected by the congregation also served as a parsonage. It stood until some fifty years ago when it was taken down to make room for a commodious house for the sexton.

The congregation was without a regular pastor for a number of years following its organization. A properly prepared and ordained minister was hard to obtain during those days. The members, however, met on Sundays, sang and prayed and had the Gospel and sermons read to them. The want of a pastor was so much felt that they frequently

allowed any one who called himself a Lutheran minister to officiate in the church. Thus they became involved in ecclesiastical difficulties which are fully discussed under the title "Tulpehocken Confusion."

This sad state of affairs after all did not continue for a great period of time. In 1748, the Rev. J. Nicholas Kurtz, who had been ordained in August of that year in St. Michael's Church, Philadelphia, during the first meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, became pastor. He resided in the parsonage of Christ's Church not far away which had been erected the previous year. He remained pastor of the old Tulpehocken Church until



THIRD CHURCH INTERIOR

April, 1770, when he removed to York, Penna. He also served Christ's Church, Northkill (Bernville), Heidelberg (Eck Church) from the time of its organization, and the Altheo Church (Rehlersburg).

Muhlenberg visited Tulpehocken, a number of times, preaching, confirming and administering the Holy Communion in Christ's Lutheran Church, a short distance west of Stouchsburg. Whether Muhlenberg ever preached in the old Tulpehocken Church (Zion's or Reed's) is not known. It is certain, however, that on April 28, 1748, Muhlenberg, Brunholtz and Kurtz, possibly one or two other pastors, after they had administered the Holy Communion in

Christ's Church, came to Zion's where they conducted services at 4 P. M., Pastor Kurtz preaching the sermon. No doubt Muhlenberg took part. Afterwards the party retired to the house of Muhlenberg's father-in-law, Conrad Weiser, living below Womelsdorf.

In 1770, the Rev. Christoph Emmanuel Schulze was elected pastor and moved into the parsonage of Christ's Church during December of the same year. Rev. Schulze was a son-in-law of Muhlenberg. He remained pastor of Zion's until his death, March 9, 1809, a period of thirty-nine years. He was assisted in his arduous labors by his son, John Andrew Melchior Schulze from the time of his



THIRD CHURCH BUILDING

licensure in 1796 until about 1805 when he was compelled to withdraw from the ministry on account of physical ailments. He afterwards rose to great eminence, serving as governor of Pennsylvania from 1823 to 1829.

After the death of Christoph Emmanuel Schulze, the Rev. Daniel Ulrich was elected pastor. He removed to Tulpehocken in July, 1811 and served the old Church until 1851 when on account of bodily infirmities he relinquished his labors.

For more than a hundred years, this congregation was served by but three pastors. From February 1852 to May, 1853, the Rev. L. G. Eggers, then pastor of Christ's Church,

preached for the congregation. On May 22, 1853, the Rev. Thomas T. Iaeger commenced to preach and remained in charge until July 30, 1865. In the autumn of 1865, the Rev. Aaron Finfrock was called and served the congregation until January, 1886, a period of twenty years. At the beginning of the same year, the Rev. Dr. E. S. Brownmiller took charge and has been serving it up to this time.

ZION'S, ALSACE TOWNSHIP

SPIES' Church as Zion is commonly known, occupies a very elevated site in the eastern section of Alsace Township. It can easily be seen for miles around. In all probability it was a union church from the beginning, the Lutherans uniting with the Reformed in erecting the first house of worship in 1774 upon a small tract of land donated for the purpose by Victorius Spiess. The first trustees were Victorius Spiess and Paul Feger.

The second edifice was erected in 1810 while Paul Bar, John Babb, George Spade, and Peter Knabb were trustees. It was a structure having a depth of 60 feet and a width of 45 feet. There were galleries on three sides. The corner-stone laying and dedication took place during the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. H. A. Muhlenberg.

In 1861 a cemetery company was chartered in connection with the Church. Four acres of ground were purchased for this purpose and laid out in lots.

In 1887 a still larger house of worship was erected. It was built of brick and measured 54 feet by 86 feet. A steeple 176 feet high added to its beauty. A fine pipe organ was placed on the east gallery opposite the pulpit.

The corner-stone was laid on July 3, 1887. The pastor, the Rev. T. T. Iaeger being assisted by the Revs. Leonard Groh and U. P. Heilman. Dedication took place on Saturday and Sunday, May 26 and 27, 1888. This happy event was overcast by the death of Pastor Iaeger only a short time previous. At these services the Lutheran congregation was represented by the Revs. Z. H. Gable and E. S. Brownmiller, Ph. D., D. D., the former speaking on Saturday and the latter on Sunday. The building com-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

mittee consisted of Harrison Seidel, David Babb, Mahlon Knabb and Jeremiah Hartman.

After a Sunday afternoon service, on February 4, 1912, this beautiful structure was burned to the ground. The fire was due to a defective flue. At once arrangements were made to rebuild. The following committee was named



ZION OR SPIES' CHURCH

for this purpose: Harrison Yoder, Levi Eddinger, Ammon S. Hartman and Hiram S. Hartman. The new building was sufficiently advanced to lay the corner-stone on Sunday afternoon, May 12, 1912. The pastors of the two congregations, the Revs. Dr. E. S. Brownmiller and M. L. Herbine officiated. Dedication took place on Sunday, Novem

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

ber 24, 1912. The weather was very unpleasant, much snow and rain falling. Dr. Brownmiller was assisted by Pastors C. E. Kistler, W. O. Laub, M. L. Brownmiller, and F. K. Huntzinger, D. D.

It appears that the congregation was without a pastor for the first eight years of its existence. In the year 1782, the Rev. C. F. Wildbahn came and served until 1796. His successor was the Rev. Daniel Lehman, 1796-1801. Apparently the congregation now remained vacant about two years when the Rev. H. A. Muhlenberg, D. D., began to serve it in connection with Trinity, Reading, 1803-1829. He was succeeded by the Rev. Dr. Jacob Miller, 1829-1850. The Rev. Reuben S. Wagner was pastor from 1850-1854. In 1855, the Rev. T. T. Iaegeer took charge and served until the day of his death in 1888 with but a brief intermission along 1865-1866 during which time he was suffering with throat trouble. The present pastor, the Rev. E. S. Brownmiller, Ph. D., D. D., began his work here in 1889.

KISSINGER'S, SPRING TOWNSHIP

THIS Church was organized at a comparatively recent period—within the last half of the nineteenth century. It is located in Spring Township, a little to the right of the road leading along the Tulpehocken from Wertz's mill to Reading, about two miles from the city.

In the year 1852 both the Reformed and Lutherans organized congregations. They also made arrangements to build a church. The corner-stone was laid May 9, and the building was dedicated October 17, of the same year. The pastors at the time were the Rev. W. A. Good, Reformed and the Rev. J. C. Schmidt, Lutheran.

The first Lutheran elders were John Matz and Abraham Kissinger. The building committee consisted of John Matz, Lutheran, with Jonathan Fisher and Adam Althouse, Reformed. Abraham Kissinger donated half an acre of ground for a burial place, and John Kissinger of Reading, the plot on which the church is erected. Subsequently an additional plot to be used as a grove, and for the erection of sheds, was purchased. Early in 1890 considerable more ground was bought and added to the cemetery.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

On January 1, 1891, the congregations decided to erect a brick tower, seventy feet high. A bell weighing 1,500 pounds was presented by Edward S. Wertz in memory of his father. The dedication took place January 1, 1892.

April 1, 1894, Henry B. Fisher proposed to place a new two-manual organ, constructed by Mr. Bohler of Reading in the church as a memorial to his deceased wife. The



KISSINGER'S CHURCH

price of the organ was \$1,350. It was dedicated on Ascension Day, May 10, 1894.

The Rev. J. C. Schmidt continued to serve the Lutheran congregation until 1854 when he was succeeded by the Rev. F. A. M. Keller who served until 1864. From 1865 to

1869, the Rev. A. Finrock was pastor. He was succeeded by the Rev. F. K. Huntzinger who served the congregation twelve years. For a brief period following the Revs. D. D. Trexler and T. T. Iaeger acted as supplies. From November, 1882 to November, 1883, it was served by Pastor Trexler alone. The history of the congregation for the next two years is somewhat hazy but it would appear that Pastors Iaeger and Bickel supplied it. In November, 1885 the Rev. T. T. Iaeger became pastor and continued to serve until 1887 when it became vacant again. The conference provided supplies until 1889 when the present pastor, the Rev. Dr. E. S. Brownmiller was called to the field.

CHRIST, OLEY TOWNSHIP

THIS is one of the few churches originally organized as an exclusively Lutheran Church, that has remained so to this day. It is situated near the eastern boundary of Oley township not far from Spangsville. It is said that the congregation was organized in 1820. It is, however, probable that the Lutherans met regularly for the holding of services in the Reformed Church of the community prior to this time.

In 1821, the Lutherans made arrangements to erect their own house of worship. Like the present building, it was located hardly more than a stone's cast from the Reformed Church. Henry J. Spang, Martin Yoder, and William Trout were elected a building committee. A lot was donated by Jacob S. Spang. The corner-stone was laid May 27, 1821. It is stated that the first services were held on Christmas of that year. But the formal dedication did not take place until Whitsuntide, May 26 and 27, 1822. "On this occasion," we read in the old records, "the following ministers were present (besides the pastor of the congregation, C. Mieler), Jacob Miller, Theobald J. Faber, and Frederick W. Geissenheimer, of whom Jacob Miller preached on Sunday morning on Genesis 28:17. Th. J. Faber preached in the afternoon on Psalm 126:3. On Monday, F. W. Geissenheimer preached in the morning and afternoon, in the morning on Acts 11:22 and 23, in the afternoon on Matthew 28th chapter, latter part of last verse."

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

This old building was of stone, stuccoed. It formed almost a perfect square with galleries on three sides. The pipe organ was opposite the pulpit. The church was renovated in 1878 and again seven or eight years later.

The present building is Gothic built out of brick. It was dedicated on Whitsunday and Whitmonday, May 30 and 31, 1909. The pastor, the Rev. Dr. E. S. Brownmiller, being assisted by the Revs. D. D. Trexler, C. E. Kistler, A. W. Lindenmuth, D. G. Gerberich, M. L. Brownmiller, W. O. Laub and J. J. Kline, Ph. D.



CHRIST OR OLEY CHURCH

On January 6, 1882, the Rev. Conrad Miller was installed as pastor in the new church. A constitution was adopted on March 31 of the same year. Conrad Miller must have served the congregation a number of years before his installation for he records his first marriage under date of September 16, 1818. This is the first entry upon the congregational record. The book itself bears the date of 1821 on the outside, and January 6, 1822 inside. Pastor Miller served the congregation until 1834. During these early years the congregation drew from a far wider field than today and so under the faithful ministry of its first pastor

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

there was remarkable growth. Rev. Miller confirmed on an average, twenty-two persons every second year.

The Rev. I. Roeller served the congregation from 1834-1839.

For the next two years, the Rev. D. Koehler, who also preached at Friedensburg and Pricetown, was the pastor.

The Rev. Marcus Harpel, or Mark Herpel, as his name was at first given, now came and officiated until the close of January, 1845.

The Rev. G. F. Miller, Pottstown, was the next pastor serving from the latter part of 1848 to 1852.

When the Rev. G. A. Hinterleitner, D. D., took charge of Kutztown during the close of 1852 or early in 1853, he also became pastor of this congregation and served probably until August of 1866.

Dr. Hinterleitner was followed by the Rev. T. T. Iaeger whose ministry extended from March 10, 1867 to January 15, 1888. For about a year after Pastor Iaeger's resignation, the congregation was supplied by the Rev. U. P. Heilman of Amityville.

The present pastor of Christ Church is the Rev. Ephraim S. Brownmiller, Ph. D., D. D., whose ministry began in July of 1889.

On Pentecost, 1922, the one hundredth anniversary of the dedication of the first church was fittingly observed. The Rev. J. B. Focht, D. D., of Susquehanna University, preached in the morning, afternoon and evening. On the preceding Saturday afternoon the pulpit was filled by the Rev. Robert B. Lynch.

ST. PAUL'S, SIXTEENTH AND PERKIOMEN AVENUE, READING



T. PAUL'S was organized January 1, 1900, by Rev. M. H. Stettler, who accepted the call from the Home Mission Board of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. His first service was held in St. John's Lutheran Chapel, Chapel Terrace and Cotton street, on Sunday evening, November 19, 1899. At this location services were conducted for over a year when the congregation moved to Dibert's Hall, Ninth and Penn streets; and from this location, 18

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

months later, to the temporary chapel at their present location. This building was occupied until the present commodious church was dedicated in 1914. The congregation, organized with 36 members, was incorporated April 20th, 1900; securing the plot of ground at Sixteenth street and Perkiomen avenue at that time. There has been but one pastor and this is his first charge. That this congregation served the purpose which prompted its establishment is evident when the fact is noted that of its total membership less than one-tenth was received by letter of transfer.



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

The congregation has attained its present status by hard labor and constant self-denial. When the temporary structure was projected, members worked night after night excavating for the foundation. At the time of occupancy the interior of the present structure was largely unfinished, members volunteered again to place all the plumbing and electrical work, erect the scaffolding and do the studding, sheathing, and lathing, thus occupying themselves after nightfall for a period exceeding two years. The goal set is

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

a completed church and a thousand membership by the twenty-fifth anniversary. The Sunday School has distinguished itself by rendering willing and substantial support at all times. The Pastor's Aid, the Missionary Society, the Brotherhood, the Young People's Association, have labored in harmony and maintained enthusiasm for work that is truly noteworthy.

Another feature that is unique and unusual, though true in part of every congregation, is the fact that families of skilled workers constitute the entire membership of this congregation. Here then truly the workers themselves have translated into tangible form a structure that is in expression of their hopes, their desires, their ambitions, and their faith.

TRINITY, SIXTH AND WASHINGTON STREETS, READING

“**T**HE history of Trinity Lutheran Congregation begins with the history of the town itself,” thus Doctor Fry, who has written a history of Trinity from its inception to the year 1894, begins his narrative. The first records of Trinity, carefully preserved in its safe, are dated 1751 but there is every reason to believe that the efforts which resulted in the organization of the congregation date back to 1748 when Reading was plotted as a town by the agents of Richard and Thomas Penn, sons of William Penn. There is a pewter communion flagon in the possession of the congregation bearing the date 1743, another that is inscribed 1748. These may be the dates of manufacture. The congregation is in possession of the minutes of a congregational meeting held on the Festival of the Epiphany, January 6, 1752.

Trinity was organized by the Rev. Tobias Wagner, a great-grandson of the Chancellor of the University of Tuebingen of the same name. A subscription list for a building fund contains forty-nine names—surely a healthy beginning. Work on a church building was started in the spring of 1752. This edifice was of wood with a steeple and galleries on three sides. The congregation sent a delegate to the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, in session at German-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

town in October, 1752, who brought a petition asking that a pastor be sent to the Church, the petition being signed by eighty-two members. The congregation is proud of the fact that the first official representative of the Ministerium appearing in its pulpit was no less a person than Henry



TRINITY CHURCH

Melchior Muhlenberg, who visited Trinity on October 15, 1752, officiating at a communion service and baptizing several children. The Rev. H. B. G. Wordman preached by invitation on May 20, 1753 and was elected pastor. He re-

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mained but a short time and was followed by the Revs. Daniel Shoemaker, John C. Hartwig (pastor protem), Bernhard Hausihl, and John A. Krug. The congregation, distressed because of the many changes, and anxious to secure a permanent pastor forwarded a petition to Halle in 1763 asking that Henry Melchior Muhlenberg be permitted to accept a call to Trinity. Muhlenberg's mother-in-law, the widow of Conrad Weiser, resided in Reading at that time and it was thought that the Patriarch of the Lutheran Church was rather receptive to the suggestion. The Halle fathers declined the request because of the importance of retaining Muhlenberg in the work of supervision in which he was then engaged.

The rules of the church order adopted by the congregation in 1772 which constitute the constitution and by-laws of that period are still in the archives of the church and form a very interesting document.

We may pause at this point to mention the names of a few more of the chain of pastors serving Trinity. To this group belong the Reverends Frederick Niemeyer, P. F. Grotz, Henry Moller, Frederick A. C. Muhlenberg, second son of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Daniel Lehman, and Frederick Wildbahn.

The present church edifice which with its tower is studied by many students of colonial architecture, was built during the years 1791-94. The Rev. Henry A. Muhlenberg, D. D., the grandson of Patriarch Muhlenberg and the son of the Rev. Henry E. Muhlenberg, D. D., was pastor of the congregation from 1803 to 1829. Under the regime of Dr. Muhlenberg the congregation prospered as shown by way of illustration in the report for 1804 which records 122 baptisms and 52 confirmations.

The Rev. Jacob Miller, D. D., succeeded Dr. Muhlenberg in the pastorate. About this time the greater need for ministrations in the English language resulted in a call extended on November 3, 1842 to the Rev. F. A. M. Keller as "Assistant Preacher in the English language for the year beginning December 11, 1842." The arrangement proved so satisfactory that he remained in this position until the death of Dr. Miller in 1850. The subsequent pastorates

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were those of the Revs. J. W. Richards, D. D., J. M. Hoffman, F. J. F. Schantz, J. J. Kuendig, and C. Rightmyer.

This brings us to the pastorate of the Rev. Jacob Fry, D. D., LL. D., L. H. D., whose long and eminent career at Trinity marked an important era in the development of the congregation. Dr. Fry's pastorate extended over a period



OLD SIXTH STREET ENTRANCE

of 32 years from 1865 to 1897, in which year he resigned to accept a call to become the Professor of Homiletics and Practical Theology at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Under Dr. Fry the congregation was very thoroughly organized, the results of this organization being very apparent in the life of the congregation of today. Dr. Fry's preaching was chiefly noted for his ability to clothe Bible texts in the language of the day. Of him it can be said: "*homo sum; humani nihil a me alienum puto*". He was deeply interested in the work of the church at large.

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Dr. Fry was succeeded by the Rev. Edward T. Horn, D. D., LL. D., who resigned in like manner to accept a professorship at the same Seminary. Dr. Horn went to the Seminary as Professor of Missions and Ethics, the two departments in which he had become most expert because of his interest in and study of these subjects. During the pastorate of Dr. Horn at Trinity, Foreign Missions were stressed by the pastor who was the president of the Foreign Mission Board. Dr. Horn's son Edward is the missionary pastor of the congregation in Japan. Dr. Horn's liturgical sense supplemented by that of William Benbow, Trinity's organist and choirmaster, made it possible for Trinity



TRINITY PARSONAGE

to become one of the finest exponents of how a Lutheran service ought to be rendered.

The pastorate of Dr. Horn was succeeded by the brief pastorates of the Rev. J. C. Seegers, D. D., the successor of Dr. Fry in the chair of Homiletics at Mt. Airy, and the Rev. Nathan R. Melhorn, D. D., Editor of *The Lutheran*. Both these men, though they were at Trinity but a short time, left the impress of their personality upon the congregation.

The present pastor of Trinity, the Rev. E. P. Pfat-
teicher, D. D., Ph. D., is celebrating the fifth anniversary of his pastorate at Trinity during the anniversary year 1923.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Trinity Church has always occupied a foremost place in the councils of the Church at large. Its pastors and laymen have been appointed and elected to important Boards and Committees and the congregation has shown a deep interest in the work of the Church. Its interests in the work of the Church at large has by no means made it blind to the interest of the Lutheran Church in the city of Reading for Trinity has organized and started and mothered for sometime practically all the Lutheran Churches in the city of Reading. It has thus been a pioneer in the right kind of self-sacrificial home missionary activity. Trinity has practically always mothered one or two of her sons en route to



TRINITY CHURCH INTERIOR

the gospel ministry. She is at present interested in two ministerial students from among her sons.

Trinity has always stressed church music of a high character and the rendition of a beautiful Lutheran service. Among the organists there have been such names as: Rightmyer, Ritter, Berg, Benbow and Seibert. Her new and youthful organist, a protege and pupil of Henry F. Seibert, is developing very rapidly into a worthy successor of these illustrious organists.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

The Bible School has had as superintendents among others: Dr. Oakley, Solomon Moser, P. A. Arnold, H. M. Richards, A. Raymond Bard and the present efficient incumbent of the office, George M. Jones, whose name is well known in the church at large, especially in Brotherhood and Luther League circles.

The present organization of the congregation includes: a very efficient and consecrated parish worker, a business officer, a financial secretary, a very live Missionary Society, the members of which are organized into teams for the regular visitation of the congregation; a second equally active organization, composed of 145 men, under the leadership of a consecrated chairman which conducts the annual visitation of the congregation and such special visitations as are found necessary from time to time; an organization which is specially interested in the orphanage upon our territory and contributes large sums each year to that worthy cause; an Inner Mission Society which, by virtue of the consecration of its members and certain appreciable legacies for the poor among its members, is able to be a very effective society, extending its sway of Christian love not only to the poor but also to the many shut-in members of the parish of every station in life and to the more than 60 students in preparatory schools and colleges by means of church literature systematically distributed; a Beneficial Sisterhood able to care for its members out of invested funds; a Daily Vacation Bible School serving the neighborhood; a Luther League which has undertaken some rather large projects in the interests of the young people; a Lutheran Brotherhood, which seeks to enlist the interest of the men of the parish in an educational program; classes for the religious instruction of the young other than those in its Bible School; groups of a supplementary character such as the Boy and Girl Scouts; and an Altar Guild which contributes materially to the chaste setting of Trinity's beautiful service. Among other things, the Altar Guild arranges for the gift of flowers each Sunday in memory of departed members of the congregation, said flowers being distributed among the sick after the evening service.

The enumeration of some of the present day activities of "Old Trinity" has been deemed important: (1) that

younger congregations may profit by her experience and (2) to show that though a congregation may be old in years it need not for that reason be feeble in doing the Lord's work. "Old Trinity" is more than a landmark. It needs to be perpetuated as more than a landmark. By the grace of God it will ever be more than that.

REDEEMER, OAKBROOK, READING

THE Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer grew out of the Sunday School which was founded by Rev. Mahlon C. Horine, D. D., then pastor of St. James Lutheran Church of Reading, Pennsylvania in the year 1886. The Sunday School held weekly sessions in the Kurtz public schoolhouse, which was located at Lancaster avenue and Hancock street. Augustus M. Brown was the first superintendent. There are no written records until the year 1903. Several times the school ceased to have sessions but later again started. It struggled hard against discouraging conditions but slowly laid the foundation. A number of church services were held in the public schoolhouse by Rev. Charles Kistler, Rev. Strodach, Rev. M. C. Horine and others.

On February 6, 1898, St. James' Sunday School took action, "to give the Lenten offerings to the 'Oakland Mission' for the purpose of securing a lot to erect a church". On December 1, 1902, Rev. M. C. Horine, D. D., purchased two lots (45 feet by 140 feet) located at the southwest corner of Fern avenue and Angelica street, for the sum of \$600.00, \$100.00 was to be donated by the executors of the Catharine Bechtel estate. A mortgage was given of \$440 and paid by St. James. This was donated to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, April 2, 1923, by St. James.

During the summer of 1903, the present church building (32 feet by 50 feet) was erected by Dr. M. C. Horine. William Fink was the architect and the contract was awarded to Samuel Gehardt who received \$280 for the carpenter work. The total cost of the church is not known; but after Rev. M. C. Horine had raised a certain amount by

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subscriptions a \$1200 mortgage was given and paid by Redeemer congregation, April 30, 1920.

The bell was purchased from St. Barnabas Episcopal congregation and cost \$65 when placed. It was dedicated September 4, 1904. A Sunday School was again organized November 15, 1903. This was done by Rev. F. F. Buermeyer, D. D. Twenty were present. The services of the



CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

Church were in charge of Rev. M. C. Horine and Rev. F. F. Beurmeyer, who gave their services gratis.

In April, 1910, Rev. J. H. Neiman received and accepted a call to become pastor of Redeemer, Oakbrook, and Grace, Shillington; He was installed May 1, 1910. He confirmed the first class at Redeemer April 14, 1911. He resigned on account of illness and preached his last sermon at Redeemer July 21, 1912. The Home Mission board supported Rev. J. H. Neiman.

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The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer was organized July 13, 1913, and a congregational constitution was adopted. On August 2, 1913, a special congregational meeting was held and articles of agreement were adopted to unite with the proposed Reading Suburban Parish, which was composed of Grace Lutheran Church, Shillington, Pa., the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement of Wyomissing, Pa., and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

On November 13, 1913, it was decided to raise the church, which originally was built on posts, and put a limestone foundation under it at a cost of \$572.60.



REDEEMER PARSONAGE

On May 17, 1914, Rev. R. W. Hufford, D. D., was unanimously elected pastor of the parish. He was installed July 5, 1914. The petition for incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer was filed in the court of Berks County, May 18, 1915, and entered January 11, 1916. Dr. Hufford preached his last sermon at Redeemer, November 2, 1919. On August 21, 1921, at a congregational meeting the new constitution, recommended by the United Lutheran Church of America, was adopted. On January 1, 1922, it was decided to raise \$1000 toward the pastor's

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salary, and ask the Mission Board for a pastor and help to support him.

On May 7, 1922, Harry E. Herman, a student at the Mount Airy Lutheran Theological Seminary, filled the pulpit, and was elected the same date at a congregational meeting. A call was extended and he accepted, taking charge June 11, 1922. He is the first residential pastor and was installed by Rev. R. B. Lynch, president of the Reading Conference, July 30, 1922.

On the 22nd of August the congregation purchased a new plot of ground (135 feet by 140 feet) located on the northeast corner of Angelica street and Fern avenue, for the sum of \$2400. On October 6, 1922, the congregation purchased a two story brick dwelling for the sum of \$5300 and paid \$170.10 to make the necessary repairs. The total valuation of the parsonage and church properties at present is over \$15,000.

The following organizations are at work in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer:—Sunday School organized November 15, 1903; Mite Society organized in 1913; Senior Luther League organized February 29, 1920; Junior Luther League organized April 29, 1921; Intermediate Luther League, October 6, 1922; Pastor's Aid organized 1921. The orchestra and choir assist in the rendition of the services of the Church and Sunday School.

BETHANY, WEST READING



ON MAY 2, 1886, the West Reading Lutheran Mission Sunday School was organized by H. M. M. Richards, superintendent of Trinity Lutheran Sunday School, Reading, Pa., in the public school building on Chestnut street above Second street. Jerome C. Lengel was the first superintendent, serving until February 1, 1891. During March, 1891, E. C. Eben and A. W. Potteiger, a committee from Trinity Sunday School, took turns in looking after the school. The late George Zerbe was temporary superintendent during April, 1891. During May and part of June 1891, Samuel N. Potteiger had charge. On June 10, 1891, W. F. Wagner took charge, and remained the superintendent until November 23, 1895. During the first nine years it passed

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through many vicissitudes on account of the frequent changes of officers. In November, 1895, Charles F. Reed was sent from Trinity to succeed Mr. Wagner, who had resigned. The school at that time had an attendance of about fifty persons, divided into three departments,—primary, secondary (three classes), and senior. The primary department was in charge of Mrs. Sophia Leader. The three classes in the secondary department were taught by Miss Anna A. Harner, who was also organist, Mrs. Hamilton Brown, Miss Florence Richards, and Charles Richards, also giving frequent aid. The senior department was supervised by the superintendent.



BETHANY CHURCH

It was at this time that the school reached a turning point in its history. One of the first matters attended to after Mr. Reed had taken charge was the adoption of a more definite name. A number were suggested, among them being "Bethany," which was unanimously agreed on.

Another question, which gave those interested much concern was the hope that a chapel might be built, in which they could more properly worship. Frequent pleas were made to Trinity, and although the necessity seemed appar-

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ent, nothing was done. In order to give the members of the school some encouragement, at one of the meetings the superintendent suggested that a committee of three be appointed to make inquiries regarding the value of ground suitable for the erection of a chapel. Solomon J. Ringler, Harry Dungan, and Hamilton J. Brown constituted the committee. Within a week's time, they reported having found a lot at a reasonable price. The offer was accepted, the committee was instructed to make the purchase and the lot 75 x 125 feet, situated on Franklin street below Fourth owned by the late George Frill, became the property of Bethany Lutheran Sunday School Association.

Having acquired the site, the next move was to secure a building. Plans were examined and finally one submitted by Charles W. Bolton, Philadelphia, adopted. These plans were made for a chapel, consisting of an auditorium, a primary, and a library room, all on the rear of the lot, providing for the erection of the main church building on the front to the building line. Another appeal was made for aid to Trinity Lutheran Sunday School and through the earnest efforts of H. M. M. Richards, the latter organization pledged \$1000.00, a check for which was given by Trinity's treasurer, Harry Eisenbrown, when the corner-stone of Bethany chapel was laid.

The chapel was built by Contractor L. H. Focht in a highly satisfactory manner, and was consecrated on January 3, 1897. On Sunday, January 10, 1897, the Sunday School held its first session in the chapel. A congregation numbering about 50 persons was organized and incorporated. Services were held by different local pastors until Rev. W. A. Snyder was called. He was installed as pastor in June, 1898, by the Rev. Dr. M. C. Horine of Reading. At this time the Sunday School showed the following enrollment: primary department 64; secondary, 36; senior 52; officers and teachers, 18; total, 170.

The officers and teachers were:—superintendent, Chas. F. Reed; secretary, Walter W. Heist; assistant secretary, Miss Laura Moyer; treasurer, Thomas J. Brossman; superintendent of primary department, Mrs. Charles F. Reed; assistants, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob S. Heft; organist, Miss Ida C.

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Phillips; cornetists, Frank Kalbach and Morris Hollenbach; librarians, Adam Bear, Charles Ellis, Daniel Bear; ushers, M. P. Brown and John Reinert; janitor, Albert Heist; teachers, Mrs. H. J. Brown and Miss Florence Richards.

The school was well furnished with good teaching material and a library of practical books to which new volumes were added from time to time. With the publication of the Lutheran Graded Series, the same was introduced in its completeness.

The congregation was united to form a parish with Trinity, at Wernersville, to which Christ (Yocum's) was subsequently added. The pastorate of Rev. Snyder was terminated in February, 1904, when he was called elsewhere. Rev. Wm. O. Laub, located at Freeport, Pa., and serving a



NEW BETHANY. CORNER-STONE LAID AUGUST 12, 1923

congregation in the Pittsburgh Synod, was called and assumed charge on June 1, 1904. The installation service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. E. T. Horn, pastor of Trinity Church, Reading. The parish was re-arranged, Wernersville being connected with Sinking Spring and Bethany with Yocum's and Schwarzwald. During 1907, the debt remaining on the church was fully paid; the building was frescoed, the pews, originally a donation from St. John's Lutheran congregation, Reading, re-upholstered, and a two-manual Estey pipe organ with electric motor installed. The rededication services were held November 10, 1907, the Rev. Dr. Horn preaching the sermon.

Since the Sunday School played such an important part in the development of the congregation, we would mention the officers who have served thus far:—Main Department, superintendent and assistants, J. S. Heft, C. A. Reese, Elmer

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F. Wenrich, and I. E. Roth; Primary Department, Mrs. J. C. Leinbach, Mrs. Charles F. Brossman and Mrs. Amelia Potteimer; organists (Church and Sunday School), Miss Minerva Eyrich, Miss Margaret Merkel and Mr. I. Austin Shaner.

With a rapidly expanding borough, Bethany has been growing apace, until now the quarters are entirely inadequate for the Sunday School, at least. Tangible steps have been taken which it is hoped will materialize in a completed building by the end of 1923.



YOCUM'S CHURCH

YOCUM'S, CUMRU TOWNSHIP

THE following is a copy of a paper deposited in the corner-stone of the church: "The record here deposited in this corner-stone (being laid on Sunday, the 28th day of May in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-four) of the building called

'Christ's Evangelical Lutheran and German Reformed Church; under the auspices of Almighty God, the members of the said congregations with a zeal and commendable liberality have founded this edifice for the perpetual worship of their great Creator and Redeemer for themselves and posterity in the 78th year of American Independence,—Franklin Pierce being the President of the United States, William Bigler, Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, and J. Pringle Jones, President Judge of the Judicial District of the County of Berks. This great and glorious compact as a Union and Government being at peace with all the world, and in the full tide of prosperity, whilst the torch is lighted in Europe leading on to war and carnage among the various powers thereof. That upon this foundation might be erected an edifice that should long stand as a Temple of the Living God and be calculated to promote His glory, and good-will among all mankind. And when from its ruins, this record shall once more return to the light of day, may it find the people of these United States free, prosperous, and happy, and the knowledge of the Lord covering the earth as the waters cover the sea', is the prayer of those who have aided in the good work."

The church edifice owes its erection to the liberality of the two congregations and the building committee consisting of:—Daniel Yocum, Joseph Hemig, Samuel Moser, Elias Fritz. The Rev. Wm. Pauli, being Reformed Pastor and the Rev. Reuben S. Wagner, Lutheran Pastor. The heirs and legatees of Henry Werner, deceased, of Cumru Township, Berks County, Pa., generously donated the section of ground on which Christ Church is built, to a Board of Trustees, who by their mutual aid and assistance erected thereon a schoolhouse called "Angelica", in the year of our Lord 1822. The said Board of Trustees were privileged to open a burial place on this ground. The Rev. Thomas H. Leinbach, minister of the German Reformed Church preached in the "Angelica" schoolhouse as early as the 27th of June, 1823, and regularly from the above date until July 14, 1828 every four weeks. He held "Kinderlehr" with the youth and administered the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the said schoolhouse.

Rev. Charles Augustus Pauli, was elected pastor as the

successor of Rev. Leinbach and served from October 26, 1828 for one year. Rev. William Amdyken succeeded Rev. Pauli. Both of these were pastors of the Reformed denomination.

Peter Filbert, Esq., who preached in the Robeson (Plow) church until he laid aside the ministry in 1830, preached in the "Angelica" schoolhouse about this date. He was a Lutheran. Rev. Augustus L. Herman preached regularly every four weeks from 1838 to 1840, sometimes in the afternoon and again in the evening. Rev. William Pauli, Reformed, became the successor of Rev. Herman in 1842 and preached regularly in the schoolhouse until the erection of the church edifice.

The Rev. Reuben S. Wagner, Lutheran, preached for several years occasionally in the schoolhouse. So that for some years prior to the erection of the church building two ministers of the separate denominations, officiated here.

The schoolhouse, octagonal in shape, stood nearly on the ground occupied by the church building. It was constructed of stone and was torn down March 22, 1855, having become unfit for use. A brick structure a short distance from the church was erected the same year. This was subsequently destroyed by fire and a very beautiful modern school building now occupies the site.

There had been no full congregational organization before the incipient steps were taken in 1853 for the building of a church. At a meeting regularly called the following resolution was adopted: "Resolved that a subscription book be opened for the purpose of procuring subscriptions in order to build a union church, and as soon as the sum of \$1400 or \$1500 is subscribed, a meeting be called for the purpose of electing a building committee."

On February 12, 1854 an election was held and the before mentioned building committee elected. Moses Yocum was elected treasurer. Early in the following spring the work of building was begun. On May 28, 1854, being the Sixth Sunday after Easter the corner-stone was laid. Rev. S. K. Brobst of Allentown preached in German in the morning; Rev. F.A. M. Keller of Reading, English in the afternoon, after which the corner-stone was formally laid by Rev. William Pauli, assisted by Revs. Wagner, Leidy, Brobst and Keller.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

The completed building was dedicated on the 25th and 26th of November, 1854. Rev. Good, Reformed, preached on Saturday morning, Rev. J. N. Hoffman, Lutheran, Saturday afternoon. Rev. Carl Schaeffer, Lutheran, German on Sunday morning; Rev. F. A. M. Keller, Lutheran, English, Sunday afternoon, after which the Rev. Reuben S. Wagner solemnly consecrated the building to the service of the Triune God.

The first Lutheran Communion service in the church was held by Rev. F. A. M. Keller, then pastor, on April 9 (being Easter) 1855; while on the Good Friday preceding, a class of 24 persons was confirmed. The total number of communicants was 44.

The pastorate of Rev. B. D. Zweizig began in 1864. On Ascension Day, May 30, 1889, the Quarto-centennial of this pastorate was observed with a fitting service. He continued to serve faithfully until 1900, when he resigned. The congregation was then united with Wernersville and West Reading and the Rev. W. A. Snyder, then pastor of the other two congregations, was called. He served until 1904. The congregation was again shifted and a new parish formed consisting of Christ (Yocum's), Schwarzwald and Bethany (West Reading) to which Rev. Wm. O. Laub, was called and assumed charge in June, 1904.

Within the last few years the building has been improved by a metal ceiling, the installation of an electric lighting and power system, and a large electric action Austin organ.

Pastor Laub resigned early in 1923. The same became effective on Pentecost, May 20.

SCHWARZWALD, EXETER TOWNSHIP

THIS is one of the oldest of our congregations, although many of the details of its early history are involved in doubt. The building is located within a few hundred yards of the angle formed by the Oley pike and the road leading from Jacksonwald to Boyertown. It is near the centre of Exeter Township.

Perhaps a few statements in regard to the organization of the three townships,—Oley, Exeter, and Amity will

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enable us to understand the position of points referred to better than almost anything else. In the spring of 1741 the inhabitants of Oley applied to the court (A. S. Green, *History of the Bright Family*) at Philadelphia. The petition was granted and the township surveyed and organized; but at least fifty families in the southwestern part had been omitted. Another petition was, therefore, sent by these, the matter examined, and the Township of Exeter formed, September of the same year. Amity had received its name from the amity between the Swedes and the Indians in 1719. Although the formal act of ratification, upon a renewed



SCHWARZWALD CHURCH

petition was made only in 1744. It may also be well to remember that H. M. Muhlenberg, in his report to Halle, sometimes plainly includes Molatton and the present Amityville in the name of Schwarzwald. According to the statement of Rev. U. P. Heilman in his "Church Paper," March 1889, the Schwarzwald Church dates back to 1745. Montgomery's date of 1754 is therefore entirely

too recent. In a small pamphlet issued by Rev. James R. Brown, pastor of the Reformed congregation at Schwarzwald, it is said that "a note on the margin of the church record states that there seems to be good authority that the first church stood about 70 years." As this first church was in use till 1808-10, this would place the building about 1738-40. This according to Rev. H. M. Muhlenberg's statements would be very near the correct date. In his second supplement to his Brief Report concerning church affairs, (Hal. Nach. Vol. I., Rev. Ed. p. 107), Muhlenberg speaks of the requests of a number of German congregations in Pennsylvania, who desire pastors, and mentions Schwarzwald as one of them. He also says that the German Lutherans there, in union with the Reformed, had built a church, without designating the exact time. Unfortunately this paper is without specific date. But it was published at Halle in 1746. The state of affairs then described could not possibly have been later than 1745. But the report says, it covers the period from the time of Muhlenberg's arrival November 25, 1742. So that we think it would be a fair conclusion to say that the church was already there upon his arrival in Pennsylvania, or else was built between that time and the present report. From this we would therefore gather that the Lutherans at Schwarzwald in connection with the Reformed built a church prior to 1745; anywhere between 1738-45.

It is agreed on all hands that this first church was a log structure and that it remained in use until 1810-11. It was then replaced by a building of stone, almost square, with galleries on three sides, a wineglass pulpit, and furnished with a pipe organ. The names of the building committee are said to have been:—Jacob Levan, John Neikirch, Henry Boyer, and Henry Klose. The ministers in charge of the congregations at the time were Rev. H. A. Muhlenberg, D. D., Lutheran, and Rev. Wm. Pauli, Reformed. It was dedicated November 10, 1811. Whether the pastors were assisted by ministers from abroad is not stated. But we are informed that "Services were held in German and English upon this occasion". We are also told that there was considerable friction consequent upon the abandonment and demolition of the old church. We were informed

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

by some of the Reformed themselves, that one of the leading men on their side was so highly offended at the manner of disposing of the materials left on hand, in which the majority did not agree with him, that he selected and laid out a private family burial ground and refused to allow his bones to rest on the church's property with the rest of his brethren.

This building remained in use about 60 years. The present brick building, 50 x 78, with tower and a fine bell, and also furnished with a large pipe organ was erected in 1870 at a cost of about \$13,000.00. Joseph Levan, Benjamin S. Ritter, Simpson Garber, Joseph Kissling, and John Hiester were appointed a building committee at a meeting of the congregations held April 23, 1870, at which it was decided that it was not advisable to repair the old church, but to erect a new one, more convenient and suitable for the congregation. The committee was also empowered to secure subscriptions, obtain plans, secure estimate of costs, and whenever the subscriptions secured warrant, to proceed with the work. June 1st the work of tearing down the old building was begun, and on July 17th the corner-stone was laid. Revs. B. D. Zweizig and A. S. Leinbach, D. D., pastors, officiated. In the afternoon Dr. B. Bausman preached. The contents of the corner-stone, put in a leaden box, are a Bible, Luther's Catechism, Heidelberg Catechism, bread (leavened) and wafers and a flask of wine—the same flask which was taken from the old corner-stone. The dedication took place December 18 of the same year. On December 17 at the preliminary services on Saturday, Revs. P. P. Hoffman and R. O. Wagner preached, while Revs. T. T. Jaeger, F. K. Huntzinger and A. S. Leinbach also took part in the services. On Sunday, December 18, Revs. B. D. Zweizig and A. S. Leinbach, D. D., pastors in charge, performed the act of dedication, and Rev. A. S. Leinbach, D. D., Reuben S. Wagner and J. J. Kuendig, D. D., preached. A life-size painting of Christ knocking at the door, the gift of Benjamin S. Ritter, was placed in the recess back of the pulpit in 1871. A new organ was procured in 1875. Extensive sheds were erected for the shelter of horses and vehicles. Adjoining the church there is a cemetery of over five acres controlled by an association incorporated Novem-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

ber 18, 1859; while on the opposite side of the church is the old "burial ground".

The following list of pastors as nearly as can be computed have served the Lutheran congregation:—a Mr. Streiter, unordained, acting as pastor, 1738 or 40 to 1743; Rev. Tobias Wagner, 1743 or 4 to 1752; Henry Borchard Gabriel Wordmann, May, 1753 to December, 1753; Daniel Schumacher, spring 1754 to September, 1755; vacant, and probably occasionally supplied by Rev. H. M. Muhlenberg, or through his agency, September, 1755 to December, 1757; Rev. John Christopher Hartwick, supply, December 1757 to April 1758; vacant, and supplied mostly by Dr. J. N. Kurtz, April 1758 to December 1758; Rev. Bernhardt Michael Hausihl, December 1758 to 1763; vacant, 1763-64; Rev. John Andrew Krug, April, 1764-Easter, 1771; vacant with occasional supplies, 1771; Rev. Frederick Niemeyer, 1772-73; Rev. Philip Jacob Grotz, part of 1774; Rev. Henry Moeller, August, 1775-April, 1777; Rev. F. A. C. Muhlenberg, supply, 1777-78; Rev. Daniel Lehman, October, 1778-December, 1780; supplies, January, 1781-July 1782; Rev. Charles Frederick Wildbahn, July 28, 1782 to November, 1796; Rev. Adam Nicholas Macard or Mackard, November, 1796-June, 1797; vacant about 6 months; Rev. Daniel Lehman, December 13, 1797 to April, 1801; vacant, 1801-03; H. A. Muhlenberg, D. D., April 1803-June 1829; Rev. Jacob Miller, D. D., June, 1829-May, 1850; Rev. F. A. M. Keller, co-pastor since 1842 and now alone during part of 1850; Rev. Reuben S. Wagner, 1850-60; Rev. J. J. Kuendig, 1861-62; vacant about a year; Rev. B. D. Zweizig, 1863-September, 1903; Rev. Wm. O. Laub, June, 1904 to---

What the original membership was it is impossible to state. Muhlenberg generally describes it as a weak congregation. But no comparison of present membership with that of the past could give any adequate idea of this congregation's growth, since a number of congregations have been organized out of it, either entirely, or in part, as e. g., Amityville, almost entirely; Spies, in large part; Oley, also largely; and Friedensburg, in part. So then a Church which then may have numbered between 100 and 200 has developed into five or six congregations with several thousand members.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Upon the territory of the congregation there are six Sunday Schools—all union—one being held in the church, and five in chapels, located at Oley Line, Stonersville, Fairview, Lorane and St. Lawrence.

At the services held now, the full liturgy is used, and the English language exclusively.

In 1915, the choir, under the leadership of Mr. E. J. Becker, installed an electric motor and blower for the organ, and fitted out the church with electric lights at a cost of over \$300.00.



ST. LAWRENCE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHAPEL

The year 1917, being the 400th anniversary of the Reformation, was considered an opportune time for a Jubilee celebration by the congregation. There being much uncertainty as to the exact date of the organization of the congregation, this was conservatively estimated as being the 180th anniversary, and it was so designated. The following anniversary services were held:—Saturday evening, July 28th, a Confessional Service conducted by the pastor; Sunday morning, Holy Communion, the sermon being

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

preached by the Rev. Dr. H. A. Weller, president of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania; Sunday afternoon, Dr. Weller delivered a masterful address on "The Loyal One", Rev. F. K. Huntzinger, and Rev. J. L. Rousch, Reformed pastor, extended greetings; at 6 P. M., a Memorial Service was held at the circle in the cemetery, the Rev. W. H. Myers, of Reading, delivering the address; at 8 P. M., Holy Communion was again administered, the Rev. M. L. Zweizig, son of the late Rev. B. D. Zweizig, former pastor, preaching the sermon. Monday evening, Rev. M. H. Stettler, and Mr. E. S. Wertz, both of Reading, delivered addresses. Tuesday evening, Rev. Dr. N. R. Melhorn and Rev. J. W. Early delivered addresses. On Wednesday evening, Mr. George M. Jones, Esq., of Reading, made the closing address, very fittingly summing up the whole celebration by speaking on "The Joy of Our Christian Faith." There were two special features on Sunday afternoon:—The presentation of an American flag to the congregation by the local P. O. S. of A. Camp, this having a special significance in view of the great war being waged in Europe; and the unveiling of a crayon portrait of a former pastor, Rev. B. D. Zweizig. After a few remarks by the pastor, a grand-daughter of Rev. Zweizig, Miss Mary Zweizig unveiled the picture.

These donations deserve special mention:—The picture with frame, Mr. John Strunk, photographer of Reading; a pair of brass altar vases, Mrs. John F. Lutz; a set of four silver offering plates paid for by the voluntary contributions of a number of members. The pastor's robe is the gift of the Women's Missionary Society; later on a brass cross was placed on the altar by the children of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Althouse in loving memory of their mother.

SALEM, ALSACE TOWNSHIP

THIS church is located several miles from the town of Temple. Through Rev. Thomas T. Jaeger, the first Lutheran pastor, it became best known as Shalter's Church. It was erected in 1860. The corner-stone was laid April 19, and the church was dedicated October 24 of the same year. It was a two-story stone structure. A number of years ago the basement was removed and a gallery

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

added. The church will hold about 500 people. Dr. Beitleman (Bydelman) first set apart a burying ground of two acres in 1790, which has since been considerably enlarged.

The congregation was founded by members of the Spies congregation, both Lutheran and Reformed, whose homes at the time, in connection with the Clymer (Mt. Laurel) furnace, were rather far removed from Spies' church. Among the prominent organizers were Benjamin Shalter, Gottfried Lutz, Samuel Schmehl, Augustus Schmehl, Jacob



SALEM, SHALTER'S CHURCH

Snyder, Jacob Hinkle, Christian Schildt, John Schildt, William Clymer, Lewis Keller, Simpson Becker, Amos Becker, Daniel Becker, John Heckman, William Heckman, Beneville Delp, Jacob Labe, Jacob Gass, Daniel Bernhardt, Jacob Trener, Ephraim Snyder and Jacob Snyder.

Benjamin Shalter donated the land upon which the church is built and additional ground. Many friends volunteered to work as masons, carpenters, etc. The cash out-

lay was something like \$2000.00. The building committee consisted of Benjamin Shalter, Daniel Bernhardt, Samuel Schmehl, and John Schildt. The chief carpenters were Levi Keller and Louis Schmehl. In 1922 the properties were valued at \$10,000.00.

The first Church Council consisted of four trustees: Christian Schildt, Jacob Hinkel, Benjamin Noll, Benneville Delp; four elders, Jacob Gass, Louis Keller, Amos Becker, Amos Schmehl; and four deacons, David Weisner, Jonas Keller, Henry Noll, Abraham Keller. The collector was Franklin Schmehl; the treasurer, Jacob Trener.

The constitution of the Church, written in very large beautiful German, is in the keeping of the present (1922) treasurer, Wellington Becker, Bernharts, Pa.

The joint membership, Lutheran and Reformed, at the time of organization was about 100 members. There was a joint treasury, Jacob Trener was the first treasurer.

The first Lutheran pastor was the Rev. Thomas T. Iager and the first Reformed pastor, the Rev. Isaac Miese. The congregation grew rapidly under Rev. Iaegeer, who was pastor for about 25 years, except that Rev. Lampe supplied the charge for about 2 years for him. The Rev. Conrad Isaac Kueding succeeded the Rev. Thomas T. Iaegeer. Rev. Dr. Brownmiller served the charge with great ability for 15 years. Since Dr. Brownmiller's resignation a number of Lutheran pastors filled short pastorates, or supplied. Among them were, Dr. Charles C. Boyer, who confirmed two classes of catechumens, Rev. W. K. Fisher, Rev. Luther Brownmiller, and Rev. Jacob W. Bittner.

The Rev. Mabry Herbein, the present Reformed pastor, has served since 1908.

A flourishing Sunday School has been kept up in connection with the congregation from the beginning. Among the faithful superintendents were Mr. Dolby, Benjamin Shalter, Captain Frank Schmehl, John Gift, Ireneus Shalter, Edgar Seiber, Miss Mamie Shalter, and the present incumbent, Mr. William Noll.

The musical services of the congregation have for many years been in charge of the present efficient organist, Mr. Moyer.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

GRACE, SHILLINGTON

RECORDS show that Rev. Z. H. Gable conducted services regularly every four weeks in the evening at Shillington. These services were conducted in a union church on New Holland avenue of that borough.



GRACE CHURCH, SHILLINGTON

These services were later discontinued and the building bought by Immanuel Reformed congregation.

Lutheran services were conducted in Shillington, then called Edison by Rev. M. H. Stettler on January 14, 1900.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

They were held in a second-floor store room and 61 were present. This was continued as a preaching point only until January 31, 1901. In the same year Rev. F. F. Bueremeyer, D. D., was called by the Mission Board of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania to meet with the Lutherans of Shillington (Edison) and form a congregation. The first recorded minutes are under the date of June 30, 1902. The names of the first Church Council are John Strunk, Joseph Naugle, Albert Foltz, James Becky, Amandus Leibold, William H. Leibold, Aaron F. Naugle and Morris Schaeffer.

The ground on which the present church building was erected, being 65 by 170 feet on the northwest corner of Broad and Church streets, was the gift of Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Sterley. The membership of the congregation in 1902 was 21. A building, 30 x 60 feet, of brick, was erected by this small band of Lutherans, the corner-stone being laid on July 13, 1902. On August 11, 1902 by decree of Judge James Ermentrout, the charter was approved and the congregation incorporated under the title of "Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Edison, Pennsylvania". The building was completed at a cost of \$3480 and on May 10, 1903 was consecrated. The debt at the time of the consecration was \$2600. Dr. Bueremeyer continued to labor until the latter part of 1909.

Rev. J. H. Neiman of Palmyra, whose name was suggested by the Mission Board, was duly elected and on May 1, 1910, was installed. Because of ill health, Rev. Neiman was forced to bring his labors to a close on January 2, 1913. Neighboring pastors supplied the Means of Grace until Rev. R. W. Hufford, D. D., was unanimously elected as pastor on May 14, 1914. Dr. Hufford was installed on July 5, 1914. On April 25, 1919 the last payment was made on the mortgage and the church was free of debt.

Dr. Hufford continued as pastor of the Reading Suburban parish comprising Redeemer, Oakbrook and Grace until July 6, 1919, when on account of ill health he was obliged to discontinue pastoral work. Rev. John L. Deaton served as supply pastor until the next pastor was called.

By action of the Reading Conference at the fall meeting in 1919 the formation of a new parish was recom-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

mended. The name of this new parish was to be the Shillington parish, and it was to comprise St. John's, Gibraltar; Robeson, Plowville; and Grace, Shillington. The parish was formed and Grace no longer received financial support from the Mission Board of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

On March 7, 1920, Corson C. Snyder, a senior at the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia, supplied each of the congregations of this new parish and on April 4, it was unanimously voted to extend him a call. Rev. G. D. Druck-



GRACE PARSONAGE

enmiller, president of the Reading Conference, on June 27, 1920, installed the present pastor. Rev. Druckenmiller was assisted by Rev. James L. Becker, D. D., of Christ Church, Towamencin, Pa.

On September 21, 1920 at a special meeting of the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Church Council it was decided that Grace congregation purchase the house and lot, 60 x 170 feet, situated on the north side of Broad street, from C. W. and Annie Fassnacht for a parsonage, at a cost of \$6000.

The congregation has an active Ladies' Aid and Missionary Society; a Junior and Senior Luther League; and a Sunday School Association composed of the officers, teachers and adult members of the Sunday School. During the summer of 1922 Grace congregation held a Daily Vacation Bible School for a period of five weeks. The total enrollment was 149 and the average attendance was 90. The present membership of the congregation is 171. The average attendance at regular services during the present pastorate is 130, for Lenten services 59. The largest attendance was 274.

ROBESON, ROBESON TOWNSHIP

THE records of Robeson Church, then called Forest Church, in Robeson Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, date back to the year 1770 and inform us that the organization had already existed three years. We have no account of the building of the first church nor are we told when the congregation was organized but we have clear evidence that it existed as early as 1767.

The first pastor of whom we have any record was Rev. William Kurtz, who labored here from 1770 to 1779. He probably effected this organization and may have continued beyond 1779. He was educated at Halle, Germany, and came over here at the solicitation of his brother, the Rev. J. Nicholas Kurtz.

Rev. Kurtz was followed in 1781 by Rev. T. F. Illing who preached for 16 years. In 1799 Rev. John Plitt took charge and continued his services until 1812 when his health failed and he went into the lumber business in Columbia. Synod was requested that Peter Hilbert, a student be allowed to become their pastor. The request was granted and Rev. Hilbert served the congregation for 17 years. He lived at New Holland. Rev. Hilbert was succeeded by J. W. Reichert (Richards) who subsequently preached in Trinity Church, Reading. He left at the end

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

of three years for the congregation at Trappe, Montgomery County, Pa.

The congregation extended a call to Rev. C. F. Welden, who continued from 1835 to 1838, and was succeeded by



ROBESON, PLOW CHURCH

Rev. C. P. Miller who preached from 1838 to 1842, and upon his resignation was followed by Rev. Marcus Harpel. Rev. Harpel received a call from Easton, Pa., and left the congregation in charge of his brother, Rev. Jeremiah Harpel

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

in 1845, who continued until 1848 when Rev. Thomas T. Iaeger took the field. After Rev. Iaeger's resignation in 1849 the congregation was regularly supplied by Rev. J. R. Focht who in 1850 organized and built St. James' church at Geigertown and those members of Robeson Church who lived in that vicinity united with St. James' Church.

Rev. F. A. M. Keller was pastor from 1851 to 1864. From January 1, to July 1, 1864, Rev. Henry S. Miller served the congregation. From September, 1864, to September, 1865, Rev. Aaron Finfrock served the congregation. Rev. Finfrock was succeeded by Rev. F. T. Hoover, who was not ordained until November following and preached his last sermon in Robeson church on November 25, 1866. Rev. B. D. Zweizig frequently supplied this congregation.

On the twenty-third of June, 1867, Rev. D. K. Humbert took the field and remained pastor until the fall of 1872. Rev. Zenas H. Gable was elected June 29, 1873 and took charge of the field August 17, 1873. Rev. Gable served this congregation until October 17, 1909. Rev. Charles G. Heffner supplied on March 6, 1910 and was elected pastor, taking charge of the work on July 10. Rev. Heffner continued as pastor until the fall of 1919. By action of the Reading Conference in September, 1919, it was recommended that this congregation together with St. John's, Gibraltar, and Grace, Shillington, be formed into a new parish to be known as the Shillington parish. Student Corson C. Snyder supplied on March 7, 1920 and on April 4 was unanimously elected as pastor. Rev. Snyder was installed on June 27, 1920, by Rev. G. D. Drunkenmiller, assisted by Rev. James L. Becker, D. D., of Christ Church, Towamencin, Pa.

The first deacons of whom there is any account were Paul Geiger and John Hoyer, 1767 to 1770. The teacher of their school was Michael Walter. From 1770 to 1773 the deacons were Conrad Mohr and Melchior Schweitzer.

The church was at first known as "The Forest," but now as "Robeson", but popularly, "The Plow". This church was originally built for a Lutheran congregation exclusively. In a paper drawn up in 1779 the members declare that they

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

have built a house of divine worship for a Protestant Lutheran congregation and for none other minister or preacher. So the deed of 1792 is given to Michael Hoffman and John Moyer in trust for the Lutheran congregation and when additional ground was added in 1817 it was deeded to Michael Westley, John Ammon and William Wamsher in trust for the Lutheran Church. When the building was erected in 1810 the Reformed also assisted and have used it ever since as a house of divine worship conjointly with the Lutherans. They were however, erroneously called "Presbyterians" and a resolution drawn up March 23, 1849 reads, "Resolved that no minister be allowed to preach in this church except the Lutheran and Presbyterian".

In 1810 Robeson church and schoolhouse were built by money raised through a lottery, authorized by law. 5000 tickets at three dollars each were sold. The amount to be raised was \$3000.

On September 19 and 20, 26 and 27, 1874 the centennial was held during the pastorate of Rev. Gable. Rev. B. D. Zweizig preaching the sermon on Jeremiah 6:16. Other sermons were preached by Rev. Dr. Schmucker and Rev. Gable.

April 15, 1888, a memorial service was held in the old church prior to tearing it down to build a new one. Rev. D. K. Humbert preached in the forenoon followed by an address by Rev. M. L. Fritch, Reformed pastor. In the afternoon Rev. Henry Mosser of Reading, preached, followed by an address by Rev. Z. H. Gable. Services thereafter were held in the schoolhouse and grove. The corner-stone laying of the present building occurred on June 23 and 24, 1888. On February 10, 1889 the basement was dedicated. On February 17, 1889, the Holy Communion was administered for the first time in the new edifice. May 25, 1890 the new church building was consecrated. The present building is 70 feet long and 46 feet wide and easily seats 500 people. It was erected at a total cost of \$14,849.62. The building is constructed of stone.



ST. JOHN'S, GIBRALTAR CHURCH

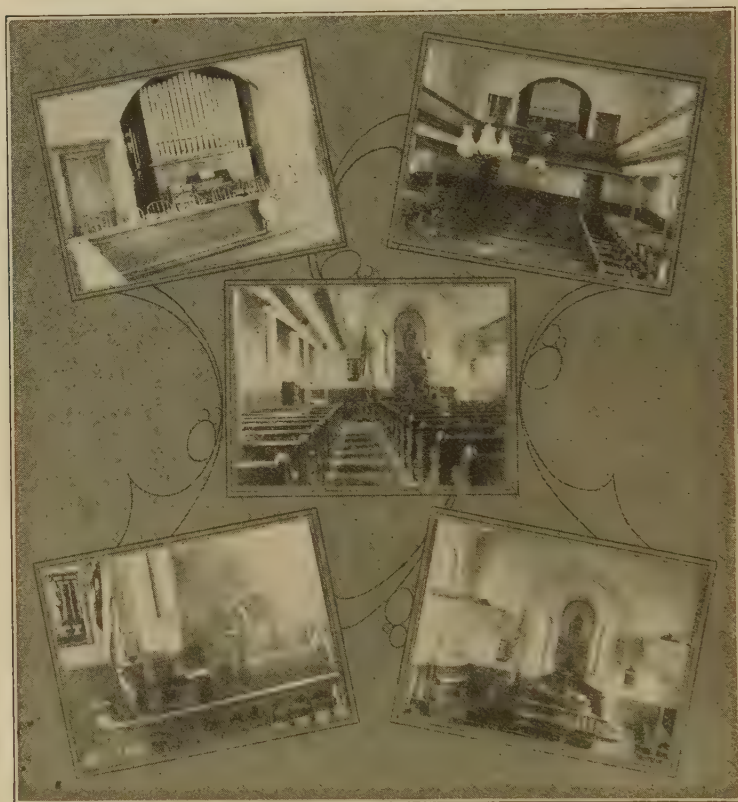
ST. JOHN'S, GIBRALTAR

THE first structure was built of plain stone and was located where the present church is situated. The ground upon which the present church stands, including about half of the present graveyard was sold by Elias Retge (Redcay) to Valentine Geiger and Herman Umstead in trust for use of such Christian congregations as should contribute to the maintenance of a graveyard and a church to be erected thereon. The original plot was one acre and ten perches and the consideration for the same, five shillings. The deed is dated April 29, 1791, and states that the ground had been used for some years past by Valentine Geiger and Herman Umstead and others of Robeson township.

In 1809 a church was built. It is not known who was instrumental in the erection, inasmuch as all the documents besides the deed were mislaid or destroyed. This original edifice stood unaltered until the enlargement of the church

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

and the erection of the tower in 1892. Although the organization claiming control of the church was nominally Lutheran and Reformed, yet Episcopalian and Baptist ministers also preached in the church. The opposition to Sunday Schools caused much trouble and local feeling in 1850. In 1851 the first charter was obtained. In this charter the property was vested in the Lutheran and Reformed congregations. The church was to be used solely by ordained



INTERIOR VIEWS

and regular clergymen of these denominations. The property was declared to belong exclusively to the two congregations. The trustees named in the charter are as follows: Jacob R. Hill, Benjamin H. Hill, Henry Moyer, Philip Hartz, Benjamin Clouser and John Haws. John Haws and R. B. Seidel were trustees in 1884. In 1884 the Reformed con-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

gregation numbered 125. The Rev. J. V. George, Ph. D., is the present Reformed pastor.

Rev. Peter Filbert is the first pastor of whom there is any knowledge, as serving the Lutheran congregation of St. John's. Between this pastorate and that of Rev. R. S. Wagner, 1854-1860, the following served, J. W. Richards, Jeremiah Harpel, James Schock and J. A. Brown. Rev. F.



BEFORE REMODELING

A. M. Keller served from 1860-1864, and was followed by F. F. Hoover who entered on his field on November 14, 1865 and labored but a few months.

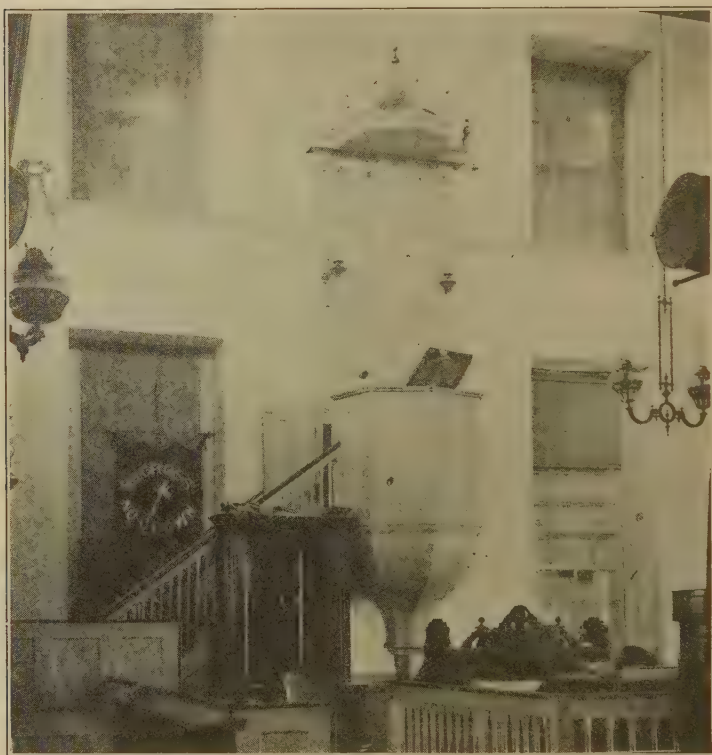
Rev. D. K. Humbert was pastor from 1867-1872, followed by Rev. Zenas H. Gable from 1873-1909. It was during this pastorate that the church building was improved and enlarged. The dimensions are 45 by 70 feet.

Rev. Willis F. Deibert served as pastor from 1910-1920. Rev. Corson C. Snyder was installed on June 27, 1920 and became the pastor of the Shillington parish, comprising Grace, Shillington; Robeson, Plowville; and St. John's, Gibraltar. This action was recommended by the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Reading Conference at its fall meeting in 1919 and entered into by the various congregations shortly thereafter.

Rev. Gable preached every four weeks and received a salary of \$150 a year. Rev. Deibert preached once every



FORMER INTERIOR

two weeks and received \$300 a year. During the years 1916-1918, the "St. John's Burial Fund for Maintenance of the Old Cemetery" was established. This has grown to \$4500.00 at the present time.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

ST. LUKE'S, SHOEMAKERSVILLE

THE recently (1921) incorporated borough of Shoemakersville in which this church is located, derives its name from one of the first settlers of this community, Henry Schumacher. The old stone homestead stands within a hundred feet east from the covered bridge crossing the



ST. LUKE'S, SHOEMAKERSVILLE CHURCH

Schuylkill river and is still in a fine state of preservation. At the eastern extremity of this borough, on a hill noted for its commanding view, stands the Shoemakersville union church. It is about 3 city blocks distant from the nearest residential border of the town.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Sometime after the founding of the village there developed a longing in the hearts of many of its citizens to have a Church. The greater number of its dwellers were members of distant and old-established Churches of Zion's, Windsor Castle, Belleman's and St. Michael's. To supply this long-felt want a number of the Lutheran and Reformed people of this community assembled as early as 1852 in order to discuss the advisability of organizing a Union Church. However, no definite action was taken until the following year, April 1, 1853, when an organization was effected to be known as "Die Deutsche Gemeinschaftliche Schumachersville Kirche."

This title is conspicuously inscribed on a marble block inserted in the outer wall above the front entrance of the church. In addition to the German title inscribed on the outer wall of the edifice, the Church bore three other distinctive names. Shortly after the erection of the edifice the Church was known as the "Shoemakersville Church." until 1903, when it was reported to synod as "St. Mark's Church." This name was attached to the Church until 1907 when the name was again changed and from henceforth it appeared on the report to synod as "St. Luke's Church."

Two acres of ground were secured from Joshua Reber to be appropriated for a church building and burial ground. A building committee was appointed consisting of the following: Solomon B. Seidel and Daniel Unger, Lutheran; David Z. Becker and Isaac H. Mohr, Reformed. The corner-stone was laid May 29, 1853. We have no knowledge of its contents, nor who were the officiating ministers. The date of the consecration of the edifice is not known and apparently was not reported to synod but we presume that it may have been coincident with the inception of the first Lutheran pastorate, that of Rev. T. T. Jaeger, October 22, 1854, and at which time also the first Lutheran Church Council was installed as follows: Daniel Unger and Solomon B. Seidel, Trustees; Benjamin B. Seidel and Samuel Step, Elders; Isaac Unger and Ru. Weidman, Deacons.

The church is built of plain red brick and its dimensions are 40 x 50 feet. It was originally erected without

a cellar or a belfry. It contains a front hallway which is accessible by a double front door and two side entrances. Within the hall are two doorways leading into the main auditorium and two opposite stairways leading to the two side galleries. The pulpit occupies the southern end of the interior and on the rear of the pulpit is a recess containing the beautiful painting of "Jesus, the Good Shepherd." The seating capacity of the church is 300.

The actual cost of the church building is not definitely known. The funds were raised by subscriptions which were payable on three or more installments. In order to give the building fund an impetus the members of the building committee subscribed \$100.00 each. There appeared to be only a few large subscriptions but a very large and extensive list of more than 900 small ones. The fund collected in this manner aggregated \$2712.00.

At the first Lutheran Communion May 13, 1855, 64 persons participated, including 12 catechumens,—the first class confirmed as members of the Lutheran congregation. Their names appear as follows: Richard Seidel, Jacob Betz, Aaron Seaman, Elizabeth Heckman, Louisa Lutz, Sophia Becker, Elizabeth Jones, Lehny Unger, Elizabeth Reber, Barbara Smith, Elizabeth Rubrecht and Elizabeth Heckman. The record of the first baptism is that of Venesa, daughter of Adam and Lydia Heckman, August 23, 1854.

The church is the happy possessor of a splendid pipe organ which was secured and installed in the northern gallery of the church in 1873. In 1890 the organ was rebuilt by Obadiah Unger of Reading, Pa. The instrument is still rendering excellent service under the care and skill of the present organist, Miss Kathryn Mengel. In 1901 the church's tower was built which added considerably to the beauty, and architectural finish of the edifice. At the same time a bell was also secured and installed. The cost of the tower's construction was \$550.00 and that of the bell was \$250.00.

The establishment of the cemetery adjoining the church premises on the east had been coincident with the erection of the church edifice. The inscriptions on the old tombstones are still legible. At various times the cemetery

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

has been improved and enlarged. It covers about four acres. In 1893 the church began to divide a portion of the ground into burial lots which were offered to the Church members at \$12.00 and to the non-members at \$24.00 per lot. On November 2, 1914 the cemetery board was incorporated. Several previous efforts were made but without success. The corporation is known as "St. Luke's Lutheran and Reformed Cemetery of Shoemakersville, Pa." Five trustees who shall be members in good standing in said Church shall constitute the board of directors. Its first board of trustees was: B. M. Gruber, Esq., B. S. Moll, W. K. Smith, J. W. Rubright and A. A. Bayer.

During the present pastorate the church has enjoyed extensive improvements. The old oil lamps were replaced by a direct electric light system. The former heating system consisting of twin stoves was changed to a steam-heating plant. The entire edifice was repainted; its interior walls were refrescoed and the woodwork revarnished and beautified; new carpet was laid in the aisles and the chancel; a gold cross, vestments for the altar, an individual communion service and a piano for the Sunday School were placed. All of these things were promptly paid for.

The Rev. J. K. Stoudt has served the Reformed congregation since 1912.

The pastors who served the Lutheran congregation are as follows: Revs. Thomas T. Iaeger, October 22, 1854-November 21, 1858; John H. Eberman, January 29, 1859-April 14, 1861; Benjamin E. Kramlich, May 12, 1861-March 2, 1865; S. S. Klein, April 2, 1865-August, 1867; Thomas T. Iaeger, August 25, 1867-July 25, 1880; C. K. Drumheller, August 22, 1880-March 25, 1883; Thomas T. Iaeger, supply, April 1, 1883-May 25, 1884; O. D. Miller, June 21, 1884-October 31, 1896; Z. H. Gable, supply, November 1, 1896-June, 1897; H. C. Kline, June 23, 1897-June 23, 1901; D. G. Gerberich, July, 1901-February 1, 1912; C. C. Boyer and others, supplies, February, 1912-October, 1913; W. K. Fisher, December 1, 1913 to--.

In October, 1913, a new parish was formed comprising Windsor Castle, St. Paul's, Windsor Township and Frieden's, Lenhartsville, to which Pastor Fisher received and accepted a unanimous call.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

St. Luke's has given at least one son to the Gospel Ministry, viz., the Rev. William B. Smith, of Reading.

ZION'S, PERRY TOWNSHIP

ZION'S Union Church stands on the crest of a ledge in the extreme northern section of Perry township, originally a part of Windsor township. It is two and one-half miles north of Shoemakersville.

The Lutherans of this community were originally con-



ZION'S, WINDSOR CASTLE CHURCH

nected with the Moselem Church, which is an exclusively Lutheran Church. Certain misunderstandings arose amongst the members of the Moselem congregation which caused a number of them to withdraw and join hands with the Reformed people of this section, the result of which was the organization of a Union Church. This step was probably taken in 1759.

As early as 1760, after the organization of the Union Church was effected, a movement to erect a house of wor-

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ship in this immediate vicinity was started. It is said that Mr. Conrad Kerchner, a man fairly well educated, was commissioned to go to Philadelphia and obtain from the colonial authorities (the Penns) a grant of land. His mission was not in vain for he succeeded in securing forty acres, originally donated by William Penn, for church and school purposes in this vicinity.

The land was secured and the site selected at the foot of the hill opposite the organist's or sexton's home where in 1761 the first church was built. It was an humble little log structure. It is impossible to give the dates of the corner-stone laying or consecration of the church.

Indeed Rev. J. A. Krug began to record ministerial acts. The first baptism recorded is that of a child of Jacob and Magdalene Schuhmacher, 1762. But there is no record of any minutes up to January 26, 1867 when the Church Council passed a resolution to record from henceforth all its minutes. However, it appears that the first church was soon found to be too small for the growing congregation and in 1771 a larger edifice of stone was erected on the site of the first church. The building committee consisted of Conrad Kerchner and George Hauer (Lutheran); Jeremiah Schappel, Eberhard Schappel and Johannes Herd (Reformed). The names of the building committee were cut on stones used in the stone structure and are still found in the wall of the cemetery near the old church site.

In 1804 the joint congregations decided to erect the third building. For some reason or other it was reared on the more elevated ground on the hillside within a stone's throw north from the old site. Additional land was purchased for this purpose and also for a burial ground, adjoining the church lot. The exact date of the corner-stone laying is not given but it is supposed that it occurred in May, 1804. It was a substantial building of brick which were burned on the church's own land. The exact dimensions are not given but the seating capacity was about 400. In course of years the church again was found to be too small, especially on communion occasions, when it was not an unusual experience for many of the communicants to find access to the church and altar only for their respective communions.

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The interior of the church presented a rather quaint appearance. It was almost a perfect imitation of St. Paul's church, Windsor township. It contained three arched doorway, balconies, straight high-backed pews with doors attached and an old-fashioned pulpit, shaped like a tulip. The building committee consisted of the regularly elected trustees,—George Hinkel and Peter Gardner (Lutheran); Andrew Smith and Peter Schappel (Reformed). About 1826 a pipe organ was installed in the church. John Starr was appointed organist. He served for 40 successive years, 1826-1866. He was succeeded by Daniel Saul in 1866 who served for 20 successive years, 1866-1886. As early as 1860 the church began to show age. After extensive repairs, including the refitting of pews and pulpit, the church was reconsecrated. On this occasion Rev. Joshua Iaegeer (Lutheran), and Rev. J. G. Dubbs (Reformed), both of Allentown were the speakers. In 1886 an iron fence was erected in front of the church lot which later was replaced by the present stone wall, running the full length of the cemetery along the public highway.

On March 23, 1901, permission was granted by the Church Council to organize a Sunday School and meet within its walls. Up to this time the Sunday Schools were largely held in the schoolmaster's house (now the sexton's home), and in the schoolhouses of the vicinity. The custom of quarterly instead of the semi-annual communion was begun June 30, 1901 and October 27, 1901 the Church Council purchased a beautiful communion set.

The first church stood 10 years, the second 33 years and the third 104 years. On Ascension Day, June 1, 1905, the one hundredth anniversary was celebrated with appropriate exercises. The pastors, Revs. H. C. Kline (Lutheran) and J. S. Bartholomew (Reformed), officiated. The speakers were, Lutheran: Revs. William F. Bond, George Seaman, J. J. Cressman, R. B. Lynch, F. K. Bernd, D. G. Gerberich and O. S. Scheirer; Reformed: Revs. Phillip Vollmer, D. D., George W. Gerhard, and J. W. Kershner.

The old church, after having weathered the storms for more than a hundred years, outgrew its usefulness in spite of frequent renovations. At different times efforts were

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made to devise plans for the erection of a new church. In 1892 a vote was taken and resulted in 47 ballots cast for and 31 against a new church. Though the majority, favoring the project of a new church, was small, a committee was appointed which succeeded in securing a subscription fund of \$6000.00. This fund, however, appeared to the congregation insufficient to warrant the building of a new church. In 1901 this same question was again agitated but without any definite action. A third and successful effort was made April 28, 1907 when the Church Council resolved to call a joint meeting of the congregations for Ascension Day, May 9, 1907. On this date the congregations assembled and unanimously decided to build a new union church, and also appointed a committee to draw up a constitution and by-laws, which were unanimously adopted June 8, 1907, as presented by the committee. It was unanimously decided to erect the new church directly opposite the old church. The following building committee was unanimously appointed at this meeting,—Lutheran: Jacob Hoffman, Walter S. Loy and David G. Mengel; Reformed: Jackson Rothermel and Jeremiah Schappel. The building committee was instructed to demolish the old church and use whatever material was suitable for the new structure. With a spirit of unity and earnestness the members of the church began the erection of the fourth church edifice. The excavation and the transportation of the greater portion of the building material was done gratuitously by the individual members of the church.

The corner-stone was laid with impressive ceremonies June 28, 1908, the pastors, Revs. H. C. Kline and J. S. Bartholomew officiating. A partial list of the contents of the corner-stone follows: a Bible; The Lutheran, Church Book, Catechism, Church Paper and Church Almanac; Reformed: Book of Worship, Catechism, Church Messenger and Church Almanac; wafers, bread and wine; the newly adopted constitution and by-laws; a list of the contributors to the building fund; program of corner-stone laying, old coins found in the corner-stone of the former church; the "Reading Eagle" (English and German); the "Hamburg Item"; etc.

Amid much rejoicing on the part of the members and pastors the new church was finally completed and conse-

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crated May 30, 1909. The pastors were assisted at the services of consecration by neighboring pastors and other clergymen who extended their respective greetings.

The new church is a large and imposing structure built of red brick with a tower containing a fine-toned bell presented by the Sunday School October 27, 1910. The interior consists of the main auditorium and the Sunday School rooms which are communicating with upward sliding doors. Two large tiled vestibules lead into the auditorium and the Sunday School rooms. There are also a Primary room, a Bible class room, a Council room and a Pastor's robing room. The chancel arrangement is strictly churchly. In a spaciouly-built recess stands the altar upon which is a large cross of brass. The lectern, organ and choir loft are on the left and the pulpit and baptismal font on the right. The windows are art glass memorials. The church is lighted with electricity and heated with steam. The combined seating capacity of the main auditorium and the Sunday School rooms is 800.

The total cost of the completed church edifice at the time of the consecration was \$24,580.73, including value of service (\$1,887.06) rendered by the various members. There remained an actual debt only of \$2,470.35 on the finished church. To-day the church property has an aggregated valuation of \$100,000.00, and is free of debt.

The new church had been without the use of a pipe organ until the year 1914 when the old organ which had rendered such excellent service for 75 years in the former church building was brought from its storage and rebuilt by E. E. Palm, of Reading, at a cost of \$2,300.00. Practically all of the original material was used in its reconstruction with the exception of a few of the main pipes. This organ is now 100 years old and is hard to be surpassed for beauty of tone. The consecration services were in charge of the pastors, Revs. W. K. Fisher and W. L. Meckstroth, Lutheran and Reformed respectively.

When America became involved in the "Great World Conflict" in 1918, 28 of the sons of Zion's Union Church responded to the country's call. On the afternoon of May 12, 1918 a service flag was placed above the altar. Two of the

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stars were soon replaced by gold ones representing the names of Oscar Long (Lutheran), and Harvey S. Schappel (Reformed) both of whom made the supreme sacrifice on the battle fields of France. The mortal remains of the former have found their final resting place in the Arlington cemetery, Virginia, and that of the latter in St. John's cemetery, Hamburg, Pa.

To the Church belongs a cemetery comprising about 10 acres. The first burial ground was located at the foot of the hill surrounding the first and second church buildings. Additional ground was procured from time to time. There is a record of such addition June 17, 1867 when measures were taken for the first time in the church's history to divide a part of the cemetery into lots to be sold. However a certain part nearest the third church building was to be reserved for "free burial." The new addition was "solemnly" dedicated November 23, 1867,—“no hucksters were permitted on or near the ground” on this occasion. In 1921 six additional acres were purchased and duly dedicated for burial purposes.

A farm of 40 acres containing a residence which was originally the schoolhouse and a part of it the dwelling of the schoolmaster, (now the sexton's home), a barn and shedding for 61 teams or automobiles are also the Church's property. The old site of the third church building, surrounded by stately maple trees, was converted a few years ago into an excellent parking place for the worshiper's automobile.

The Church has a Bible School of which Alfred F. Bayer, a deceased member of the Lutheran congregation had been the devoted and faithful superintendent for the envious period of 40 years, 1880-1920. The school and church have fittingly honored him by placing a window in the former's room to his memory. Irvin Lengel, Jr., a former student of Muhlenberg College, is the present efficient superintendent.

The Rev. W. L. Meckstroth has been pastor of the Reformed congregation since February 1, 1912.

The following have served the Lutheran congregation: Revs. Bernhard Michael Hausihl, 1759-1763; (it will be

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noted that his pastorate began at least two years before the church was built); Daniel Schuhmacher, 1763-1765; John Andrew Krug, 1765-1771 (the first pastor to preach regularly); Daniel Schuhmacher, 1771-1775; Heinrich Moeller, 1775-1777; Daniel Lehman, 1778-1803; Daniel Lehman and John Knoske (assitant), 1803-1810; John Knoske, 1811-1816; Frederick Engel, 1817-1823; G. F. I. Jaeger, 1823-1863; T. T. Jaeger, 1866-1883; Student Supply, 1883-1884; O. D. Miller, 1884-1896; Z. H. Gable, Supply, 1896-1897; H. C. Kline, 1897-1910; D. G. Gerberich, M. H. Stetler, C. C. Boyer and others, supplies, 1910-1913; W. K. Fisher, December 1, 1913 to---

The Rev. Owen Reber ordained in 1888 and at present the pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, Pa., is a son of Zion's. Luther Lengel, now a student in Muhlenberg College, has the ministry in view. With much spiritual pride the congregation boasts of having one of its young daughters, sister Amy Baver, at present in training in the Baltimore Lutheran Motherhouse of Deaconesses.

ST. PAUL'S, WINDSOR TOWNSHIP

THIS church is located on the state road in Windsor township, about two miles northeast of Hamburg. It is built on a long and level stretch of elevated ground. A small metal plate pressed into one of the stones of the corner church wall in 1908 by the U. S. geological survey bears this inscription: "Elevation above sea level 568 feet."

Sometime prior to the year 1750 the early settlers, most of whom were Germans, found the mountains of this section. Here they began to build rude homes for themselves. They also longed for a church. As the result of such yearning, the Lutheran settlers in this community after the year 1750 began to erect the first church which was built of logs. This was the result of the earnest labors of Revs. John A. Krug and Decker, two neighboring Lutheran pioneer pastors. In the beginning it was an exclusively Lutheran Church and it is said that it remained such for the first 75 years of its existence. The church was dedicated November 6, 1756, as the "Lebanon Evangelical Lutheran church, at the Blue Mountains." The services

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were in charge of Rev. Daniel Schumacher, as its first pastor, who also served other Churches among which was Zion's Church, Perry township. In its early history the congregation consisted of few members. Services were not held frequently.

The life of these early settlers in their new mountain home was not very peaceful. The Indians also dwelled in those mountains and occasionally manifested open unfriendliness. The hostility grew more intense until finally these people were driven out and their log church burned



ST. PAUL'S, SMOKE CHURCH

to the ground. Though deprived of their humble dwellings and church their faith failed them not. On September 25, 1767 a request was issued and signed by Rev. Peter Mishler (an unordained minister), at that time pastor, Jacob Mueller and George Grove to collect funds for erecting a new church near the Blue Mountains. On October 9, 1767 permission was granted to collect 500 Pounds or about \$2500. This added to their own funds, enabled them to build a second church. This was also built of logs and endured 63 years.

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The church occupied a site adjoining the present church building on the north. The outlines of a portion of its foundation can still easily be seen between the present edifice and the state road. The church was dedicated on the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity, 1769. Soon after this Rev. Frederick Mueller became the pastor. Pastor Mueller ministered to the congregation until 1826, when bodily infirmities compelled him to relinquish the pastorate. He died in August, 1827. On July 9, 1826, Rev. G. F. I. Jaeger became the pastor of the congregation and ministered faithfully to this people until 1870. When Pastor Jaeger took charge of the congregation the Reformed people began to hold services in the church.

In 1832 the old log church was torn down and the better material used to build a "Schoolmaster's house." This was a log dwelling and later became the home of the church's sexton. After having stood for 85 years it was replaced in 1917 by a fine two-story frame dwelling.

The third and present church building was erected in 1832. The building committee consisted of John Seidel and Daniel Hollenbach, Lutheran; John Fry and Daniel Weiss, Reformed. The foundation walls of the church overlap those of the former church edifice on the north. On April 29, 1832, the corner-stone was laid and the church dedicated, October 20, 1832. Rev. G. F. I. Jaeger and A. L. Herman (Reformed) were the officiating pastors. At this time new church regulations were adopted and the Reformed congregation granted equal rights and privileges in the property with the Lutheran congregation "forever." It is supposed that at this time also the original name of the church, "Lebanon Evangelical Lutheran church, at the Blue Mountains," was changed to that of "St. Paul's Union Church." In the earlier times of its history it became known as the "Smoke Church" by which name it is still commonly called. Tradition says that the male worshipers were in the habit of smoking in the church until the services began. Then the smoking ceased and "the people began to listen attentively and reverently to the preaching of God's Word."

The building is a small plain stone structure without

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a steeple or belfry. It is nearly square (30 x 40 feet). There are three entrances and a number of small arched windows in the four walls of the edifice. The northwest corner of the outer wall contains the corner-stone of the second church building. On it is the inscription: 1769, P. M.; H. I.; E. H.; G. G. There are galleries on three sides of the interior. Both the first floor and the galleries were originally furnished with old-fashioned high-backed pews. The pulpit was wineglass shaped with a sounding board above it. A small pipe organ occupies a portion of the gallery on the south. The seating capacity is about 200. In 1856 the congregation fittingly celebrated its centennial.

In 1868 the church was remodeled, the interior was entirely changed and equipped with a more modern pulpit, a new altar and new pews. It was rededicated September 27, 1868. In 1892 the church was again renovated, the interior being repainted and refurnished at a cost of \$500. In 1907 the congregation built two rows of sheds. A beautiful cemetery adjoins the church on the west. The Rev. W. L. Meckstroth has supplied the Reformed congregation since 1911.

The following have been the pastors of the Lutheran congregation:—Rev. Schumacher, 1756-1765; Peter Mishler, (not ordained), 1765-1769; Rev. Frederick Mueller, 1769-1826; Rev. G. F. I. Jaeger, 1826-1870; Rev. F. K. Huntzinger, 1870-1875; Rev. B. S. Smoll, 1875-1880; Rev. C. K. Drumheller, 1880-1883; Rev. O. D. Miller, 1884-1896; Revs. Z. H. Gable, W. Wagernagel and Wm. F. Bond, supplies, 1896-1897; Rev. H. C. Kline, 1897-1910; Revs. G. D. Druckenmiller, and others, supplies, 1910-1913; Rev. W. K. Fisher, 1913 to---

The Rev. Raymond J. Heckman of Reading is a son of this congregation.

In June 1901, a new parish was formed consisting of St. Paul's Church, St. John's Church, Hamburg and Zion's Church, Perry township. In 1911 St. John's Church, Hamburg, became a separate parish and St. Paul's and Zion's were supplied until 1913 when the present parish was formed comprising the congregations of St. Paul's, Windsor township; Zion's, Perry township; Frieden's, Lenhartsville;

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and St. Luke's, Shoemakersville. Shortly after the formation of this new parish a unanimous call was extended to Rev. W. K. Fisher, the present pastor, who assumed the pastorate December 1, 1913.

FRIEDEN'S, LENHARTSVILLE

THIS congregation sprung largely from Dunkel's Church located three miles southeast of Lenharts-ville. In 1855 a number of religiously inclined people met and organized themselves into a congregation. The following resolution was adopted: "We the citizens of Lenharts-ville and vicinity in the year of our Lord, 1855, resolved on account of inconvenience and distance to other churches to build a union church, Lutheran and Reformed, wherein to worship Almighty God."



FRIEDEN'S CHURCH, LENHARTSVILLE

However, the selection of a site for the location of the church created not a little agitation and discussion. The newly organized congregation resolved itself into three elements which favored as many different sites. One

party expressed its desire for the erection of the church in the vicinity of Klinesville; another for the west side of the Maiden creek within the borough limits of Lenhartsville; the third element amongst whom was George Merkel, an influential and charitably inclined citizen, favored the present location. It was finally and amicably decided to erect the church on the state road several hundred yards east of Lenhartsville on a large plot of ground donated "by George Merkel and his wife, Fanny", who were also the donors of a large parcel of ground to be used for cemetery purposes. A survey of the ground was made February 7, 1858, by Silas Christman, and found to contain 103 perches.

Ground was broken, and the corner-stone laid on Whitsunday, June 1, 1856. In this stone were deposited "a copy of the Holy Scriptures; the Lutheran and Reformed Catechisms; the Common Hymn Book; bread and wine and a piece of writing containing style and title of said church." The officiating pastors were Rev. G. F. I. Jaeger (Lutheran) and J. Sassaman Herman (Reformed). The joint Church Councils comprised the following members: Elders: John A. Dietrich (Lutheran) and John Frey (Reformed); Deacons: Reuben A. Dietrich and Samuel Bayer, (Lutheran), Seth Ziegler and Charles P. Dietrich (Reformed); Trustees: George Merkel and George Yenser (Lutheran), Samuel Lenhart and William Rieser (Reformed).

The following proclamation was made and read at the laying of the corner-stone:—"With the laying of the corner-stone of the church in process of erection, the Union Evangelical Lutheran and German Reformed Lenhartsville Frieden's Church, in Greenwich Township, Berks County. Whereas, The Lord desires to dwell where the memory of His name is established, and where two or three are gathered together in His name, He will be with them and bless them; Whereas, No congregation can establish the celebration of public worship with meaning and dignity, to the end of edification, without a building erected to this end, this congregation has resolved, Therefore to build a church—a German Reformed and Evangelical Lutheran. It is necessary to disclose to the world the end and purpose of this house. We hereby attest, therefore, to the present and

future generations, that we to-day, the first day of June, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, eight hundred, fifty-six, in the administration of Franklin Pierce, President, and of James Pollock, Governor of Pennsylvania, lay the corner-stone of a Union German Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church; that on completion this house be dedicated to the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and ever remain thus. It shall be called the Lenhartsville Frieden's Church. In it the Gospel of the crucified Christ shall be preached and the Holy Sacraments administered, conformed to the teachings of His Apostles, the contents of whose teachings we learn from our respective Lutheran and Reformed Catechisms; which same are placed to-day in the corner-stone, in order that they who may come after us may know our confession of faith. If at any time men should forget their Savior, scorn the Word of God and His Sacraments, and not tolerate his salutary teaching, we call Heaven and Earth to witness that we be free from their sin and blood. This house which we here build, shall ever be witness that we love Protestant Christianity and desire its furtherance; that it is our desire that the atonement of Jesus be here clearly taught to poor sinners; that we expect that those who may come after us may never forsake their Christian community and congregation; that it is our desire that the teaching of Christ's atonement may here arouse, encourage, comfort and edify old and young and prepare them for Eternity. With such desire, with such hope, we can confidently trust in God and say with Jacob: 'This stone which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house', a place in which God shall reveal his presence."

With the hearty cooperation of the members of the church and the support of the citizens of the community the edifice was finally completed and "solemnly dedicated on Sunday, May 31, 1857, as a house of public worship." The total cost for "the erection of the church, stable (for pastors' teams), and fence, including interest up to April 1, 1858, was \$5,785.94." The amount collected by cash and subscription up to 1870 for the building fund was \$4,622.77.

In 1872 action was taken by the joint Church Councils to liquidate the debt of the church,—a debt which the

authorities regarded as seriously "retarding the growth and general spirit of the congregation."

The following resolution was passed "that all male members be assessed according to their financial status." With but few exceptions the individual assessments were paid and thereby the debt was practically wiped out.

The church is a one story brick edifice. A front hallway leads to the ground floor and by two stairways to the rear and side balconies. It is a plain yet large and lofty structure with a belfry. The tower, containing the bell, was erected in 1901. An excellent pipe organ built by E. E. Palm of Mt. Penn, Pa., and occupying the upper rear balcony, since 1904, enhances the beauty of the interior of the church and its service. Andrew Carnegie contributed \$250.00 toward its payment. The seating capacity of the church is about 400.

In 1880 "certain troubles and difficulties arose among the members of the Church whereby its constitution came in question" and the peace and prosperity of the Church was seriously threatened for a time. The constitution was deemed insufficient in form. It was thought amendments were necessary. On March 18, 1880, the congregation appointed Peter Fister, instructing him to appoint six respectable persons, members of the congregation of whom three were to be Lutheran and three Reformed, as a joint committee to frame and present a form of the constitution." The following committee was appointed March 19, 1880, Lutheran,—Nathan Stump, Reuben A. Dietrich and Samuel Baver; Reformed,—Jacob Z. George, Willoughby Leiby and Peter Fister. The committee, with William H. Lenhart, secretary, submitted a revised form of the constitution which was accepted by the congregation May 8, 1880. After this united action the congregational life eventually became harmonious again.

In 1894 as well as in the year of 1922 the cemetery adjoining the church was enlarged and the additional ground duly consecrated. In 1907 a substantial and ornamental iron fence was erected in front of the church. In 1912, through the earnest efforts of several interested friends of the congregation a strip of ground on the north

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

side of the public road, directly opposite the church, was secured from the "Merkel" descendants. On this tract a row of sheds for teams and automobiles has been erected. A public schoolhouse adjoins the church property on the east.

The Rev. R. S. Appel has been the Reformed pastor since 1893.

The first Lutheran pastor was Rev. G. F. I. Iaeger. He served from June 14, 1857 to July 24, 1870, when he resigned on account of his age and infirmity. Pastor Iaeger owned and lived on a farm in the vicinity of Klinesville for many years. The farm is still known as the "Iaeger farm", and is in possession of his immediate descendants. There is no record of his many official acts. He was followed by Rev. F. K. Huntzinger, whose labors extended from October 23, 1870 to November 21, 1875. Records show that he baptized 28; confirmed 44; and officiated at only 2 funerals. The Record says: "There were more deaths in the congregation, but as Father Iaeger who had lived and labored in the charge of which Lenhartsville was a part for nearly 50 years, who had baptized and confirmed the children of nearly two generations, he was generally invited to officiate at the funerals of the congregation". Then came the following pastorates: Rev. Benjamin Smoll, July 4, 1876- July 25, 1880; Rev. D. D. Trexler, August 14, 1880-October 12, 1913; Rev. W. K. Fisher, December 1, 1913 to---

ST. JOHN'S, SINKING SPRING

THE historical material of this congregation is meager. It is found in recorded deeds, the records of Trinity, Reading, Pa., the minutes of synod and the diary of Rev. J. W. Richards, D. D. On October 30, 1793, Christian Ruth, a member of Haehn's (Hain's) Church devised 1½ acres for a church and burying place at Sinking Spring, Pa. This offer was accepted by the people residing in the village and a church was built. The corner-stone was laid, May 3, 1794. The church was dedicated as an Evangelical Presbyterian Reformed Church.

The building was of brick and its pulpit of the wine-glass type. In 1809, 2½ acres of the farm of Peter Ruth

LUTHERANS IN DERKS COUNTY

were added and the ground lying north of the building was annexed to the cemetery.

Up to 1812, the property was controlled largely by members of the Reformed Church. In that year the Lutherans were admitted to joint ownership.

In 1817 the congregations purchased a pipe organ, built by Obenhauser, of Reading. Its construction was



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, SINKING SPRING

peculiar. A large eagle with out-stretched wings occupied the middle section of the organ. To the right and left two figures of angels blowing trumpets were placed. The first original floor, constructed of brick was removed and one of wood substituted. In 1851 a tower 16 feet square and 151 feet high, capped by a large brass ball was erected. A bell

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weighing 1600-lbs. was placed in the belfry. At this time \$3000.00 was spent in improvements. October 16, 1852, the church was dedicated. In 1884 the congregations made others improvements costing \$7000.

In 1896 difficulties and misunderstandings between the two congregations concerning changes in the internal arrangements of the church to which the Lutherans were opposed and upon which the Reformed insisted, led to a separation. At a meeting of the Reformed congregation held January 1, 1897, the following action was taken, "First: That the agreement of March 13, 1854, be abrogated and annulled and that the Reformed congregation pay to the Lutheran congregation the sum of \$2500.00. Secondly: That the Reformed congregation quitclaim and convey to the Lutheran congregation the undivided moiety or half part of the lot of ground purchased from Elijah Ruth and conveyed to the Sinking Spring congregations by deed dated December 27, 1828, the half part to be conveyed to the Lutheran congregation. Thirdly: That the Lutheran congregation quitclaim all their right, title and interest to the other one-half of said lot."

The corner-stone of the present building was laid April 6, 1897. The church was dedicated October 23 and 24, 1897, the pastor, Rev. B. D. Zweizig was assisted by Revs. Horine, Brownmiller, Early and Strodach. The organ was consecrated July 29 and 30, 1899. It cost \$2100.00. In 1906 electric lights and fixtures were installed at a cost of \$550. During the fall of 1912, the building was thoroughly repaired, the walls of the auditorium and Sunday School room painted and steam heat installed. The improvements cost \$1050.

The one hundredth anniversary of the Church was celebrated December 15 to 18, 1912.

The first pastor was Rev. H. A. Muhlenberg, D. D. He was pastor of Trinity, Reading, March 21, 1803-1828. The minutes of synod state that he also served Sinking Spring, Alsace, Schwartzwald and Spies. Rev. Jacob Miller, D. D., was pastor of Trinity, January 15, 1829-April 24, 1850. He also preached at Sinking Spring, Alsace, Schwartzwald and Spies.

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In 1842 a demand by the English speaking people for English services aroused bitter feeling. This resulted in the calling of Rev. F. A. M. Keller, November 3, 1842. In 1843-1850, Rev. Keller reports Sinking Spring, Alsace, Schwartzwald and Spies as his parish. In 1852, Rev. T. T. Jaeger informed the president of synod that he had resigned the Lancaster County congregations and retained Womelsdorf, Rehrersburg, Millersburg, Myerstown, Sinking Spring and North Heidelberg. In 1854 Sinking Spring and Millersburg, do not appear on the list of congregations served by Rev. Jaeger.

On January 1, 1853, Rev. J. W. Richards, D. D. (then pastor of Trinity, Reading) was elected to St. John's. Dr. Richards' diary contains a complete list of baptisms, confirmations, memberships, marriages and deaths. Upon the death of Dr. Richards in 1854, Rev. F. A. M. Keller, pastor of St. James', Reading, reports Sinking Spring, Emanuel (Hamburg) and Kissinger's as his parish. Candidate B. D. Zweizig assisted Dr. Keller, 1857 to 1859. Upon the death of Rev. Keller in 1864, Rev. Zweizig became pastor of Sinking Spring which he served until his death, September 9, 1903. On October 24, 1903, Rev. J. W. Lazarus of the Mt. Bethel parish, Northampton County, was unanimously elected, the call to take effect January 1, 1904.

Three members of St. John's have entered the ministry: Francis Trout Hoover, confirmed by Rev. Keller, December 11, 1858, ordained 1866, first charge, St. John's, Reading, Pa.; Franklin K. Huntzinger, confirmed by Rev. Keller and ordained 1869, founder of St. Luke's, Reading, and its pastor for over fifty years; Wm. J. Masser ordained 1911, pastor at Orwigsburg, Pa.

Members of St. John's assisted in the formation of the following Churches: Bethany, West Reading, 1896; Trinity, Wernersville, 1897; Grace, Shillington, 1900; Church of the Atonement, Wyomissing, 1900.

The congregation was chartered in 1897. Its constitution is similar to that of Trinity, Reading, Pa.

During the World War 16 young men enlisted in the army and one young woman as a volunteer nurse.

TRINITY, WERNERSVILLE

FOR some years the establishment of a Lutheran congregation in this place had been discussed by members of the Reading Conference through its mission committee. Up to 1895 the matter had gone no further than the discussion of the prospects and probabilities. July 29, 1895, Dr. Horine and Dr. Kuendig, members of the mission committee, held a meeting in the school building during which a provisional organization was effected. Messrs. G. W. Wertz, T. C. Bricker, John Roether, M. E. Smeltzer and H. P. Flickinger were appointed a temporary board of officers to secure a place of worship, and to take charge of the congregation to be organized. On November 10, 1895, the form of constitution recommended by synod was adopted. The temporary organization was made permanent by the election of a Church Council: A. L. Fiant, James Kauffman, T. C. Bricker, and P. G. Fox. Their installation took place November 17, Rev. J. W. Early officiating. Services were held regularly in the high school building by the Revs. Horine, D. D., Kuendig, D. D., Fry, D. D., Early, Huntzinger, Smith, Finfrock and students J. W. Horine, Charles J. Gable and L. D. Gable.

On August 2, 1896, one year after the organization of its provisional board at a congregational meeting at which Dr. Kuendig presided the following building committee was appointed: Geo. W. Wertz, M. E. Smeltzer, H. P. Flickinger and M. L. Kauffman. On December 28th it was decided to erect a church building 45 by 65 of mountain stone. Ground was broken October 6th and the corner-stone laid November 15, 1896. Revs. Dr. Horine, Dr. Kuendig and Lewis Smith officiating. On June 15, 1897, three more members were added to the Church Council: Geo. W. Wertz, Albert Potteiger and Samuel Wenrich. On July 27, 1897, Rev. Wm. A. Snyder, was elected and called as pastor. Rev. Snyder was installed by Drs. Horine and Kuendig, August 15, 1897.

The formal dedication of the building took place Aug. 22, 1897. The pastor was assisted by Revs. Dr. Horine and Dr. Kuendig. Additional services were held, the Revs.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Schantz, Early, Brownmiller and Zweizig serving Saturday afternoon and evening. On Sunday, 2 p. m., Dr. Horine, Revs. Heilman and Kershner delivered addresses. In the evening Revs. Gable, Strodach, Welder and Kramlich conveyed the greetings of their respective congregations.



TRINITY CHURCH, WERNERSVILLE

On May 21 and 22, 1898, a Meneely bell was dedicated. During the spring of 1903 (May 18) an order for a two manual pipe organ was placed. The consecration of the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

organ took place October 25, 1903. On January 23, 1904, the Rev. Wm. A. Snyder tendered his resignation to take effect March 1.

Fortunately to the best interests of the congregation no interval was allowed to intervene between the pastorate of Pastor Snyder and his successor, Rev. J. W. Lazarus. At a regularly called meeting of the congregation held March 20, 1904, Rev. Lazarus, pastor of St. John's, Sinking Spring, was elected. The unanimous call was accepted, effective April 1, upon the condition that conference would form a new parish, uniting St. John's, Sinking Spring, and Trinity, Wernersville. This was done at the spring meeting of conference held at Robesonia.

Through the generosity of its honored members, Trinity enjoys the perpetual right of educating her sons at Muhlenberg College. One of these, Paul P. Huyett, class of 1910, was ordained by the Ministerium of Penna., 1913.

Six shares of the Lutheran Mission and Church Extension society valued at \$50 each are held by members of the congregation, the accruing interest going to the society. Through the bequest of one of its founders, the congregation has an endowment fund of \$500. During the past 25 years the members and friends of the congregation contributed \$18,487 for current expenses; \$10,310 for special expenses; and \$9,264 for benevolence; or a grand total benevolence of \$38,061.

The Sunday School has been under the supervision of an efficient corps of officers and of faithful and self-sacrificing teachers. Much of the success of the Sunday School was due to the untiring efforts of its first superintendent, T. C. Bricker, nor has his successor, Charles Kauffman, lacked anything essential to the requirements of that office. It has always endeavored to maintain a high standard in the matter of its instruction. It was one of the first to adopt the graded lesson series.

With the entrance of our country into the World War, patriotism of the purest type manifested itself. That loyalty to country which has ever been a fundamental doctrine of our church, showed itself in sacrifice and service. Four young men entered the army: Lloyd G. Haag, Sgt.,

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Washington, D. C.; Lloyd M. Hassler, Sgt.; George B. Lazarus, Sgt. Co. M Pioneer Infantry; Harry R. Miller, Sgt., Co. F, 316 Infantry, wounded. During the whole period of the war the pastor kept in touch with the men through frequent correspondence. When "Our Boys" returned a reception was tendered them ending in a service held on the evening of November 11, 1919.

ZION, STRAUSSTOWN

ZION Union Church of Upper Tulpehocken township, a quarter mile east of the borough of Strausstown, was popularly known in the past as Blue Mountain Church. It is located along the state road leading from Hamburg to Jonestown and Harrisburg. It stands upon a divide some of whose water flows into the Little Swatara



ZION, BLUE MOUNTAIN CHURCH

and finally reaches the Susquehanna; and the other flows into the Little Northkill, the Tulpehocken and the Schuylkill river. Fort Northkill commanding one of the gaps in the Blue Mountains is located about two miles northeast. This church in early history was also known as the North-

kill church. There is a farm of about 40 acres, the property of the church. Extending west from the church there is a beautiful grove which is used for Sunday School picnics and other church gatherings.

The dates engraved on the corner-stone are 1739-1819-1904, indicating the years in which the three churches were erected. The first building put up in 1739 was of logs and stood in the old cemetery east of the barn belonging to the church farm.

It is generally said that the first 80 years the property belonged to the Reformed alone. There is probably a mistake about this, for the first land was secured in 1746 for Lutherans and Reformed. This has been established by Daniel H. Hoch with documentary evidence. Another document, a warrant is extant, dated April 5, 1768. In this deed 50 acres with buildings are conveyed to Henry Berger and Nicholas Gauger in trust for a Reformed and Lutheran congregation forever. This deed recites that it is the property deeded to Adam Sunday, Valentine Ruenzell and Jacob Resh, March 7, 1746, in trust for a Reformed and Lutheran church in consideration of 50 shillings. Then there was a deed next, dated January 3, 1772, conveying the property from Henry Berger and Nicholas Gauger to George Berger and Philip Clar in trust for the Reformed forever. There is no explanation how this diversion of property was brought about in the course of only four years, from 1768 (above) to 1772.

The next deed was issued March 14, 1826 to Adam Sunday, Valentine Reinzell (Ruenzel) and Jacob Rush (Resh) in trust for the Lutheran and Presbyterian Church, their heirs and assigns forever, for this tract warranted March 7, 1746. From the evidence it is clear that 177 years ago the property belonged jointly to the Lutherans and Reformed. Secondly, that from 1772 to 1819, for about 47 years it was a Reformed property.

There is no record extant when or by whom the Lutheran congregation was organized at the time of the building of the second church. There probably was a Lutheran congregation existing throughout its early history in spite of the fact that they lost their property rights for a time.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

The second church was built in 1819. It was a large stone church with three entrances on three sides of the church. It was built on the site of the present church. The building committee consisted of the following: Lutheran, Jacob Degler, John Wertz, Peter Gerhard; Reformed, Jacob Klahr, John Aulenbach, Jacob Reber. Church Council: Lutheran, Jacob Degler, Elder; Henry Gebhard, Deacon; Reformed, Valentine Bolz, Elder; Henry Kiehner,



THE OLD CHURCH

Deacon. Head Masons were Mathies Roth, John Batteiger; Head Carpenter, John Schwallm. The clergy that were present at the dedication were John (Wm.) Gotthold Ernst and Benjamin German, on the Lutheran side. Rev. Wm. Hendel, D. D., and Rev. John Faber on the Reformed side.

These people also provided a schoolhouse for a parochial school. The schoolmaster lived on the farm, and was

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

farmer, teacher, sexton, organist and choirmaster. Some able teachers served here. A few were proficient even in English. This school ceased to exist after the advent of the public schools, about 1855. Some of the teachers were a Mr. Trewitz, Peter Gilbert, Charles Butzer, and William Miller. Those following were only sexton and organist: Luther Miller and William Dietrich. Since 1902 none of the organists have been living in the sexton's house. The organists since then have been C. A. Unger, Mrs. G. W. Anthony, and Charles Anthony.

On September 22, 1860 the congregations agreed to apply for a charter of incorporation, which was granted January 21, 1861.

In 1863 a slate roof was put on the church. In 1883 a new steeple was added and the old bell of 1856 was placed therein. This is the same bell that was placed in the new tower. It is not known when the old pipe organ was secured. It is generally thought that it was gotten when the second church was built or soon thereafter.

A Sunday School was started in the town about 1850 and in about 1900 was moved into the church. Some of the superintendents were the following: Michael Miller, Henry Christ, Frank Daniels, James F. Naftzinger, Thomas Richardson, C. A. Unger, Roger Moll, C. A. Unger, Jr., and A. W. Hiester.

The present church building was erected 1904-5. The building committee consisted of the trustees as follows: John W. Hollenbach, John A. Degler and John G. Bare, Lutheran; Wm. D. Hiester, Charles Christman and W. M. Anspach, Reformed. The corner-stone was laid May 22, 1904. Rev. O. E. Pflueger, Lutheran pastor, was assisted by Rev. O. Leopold; and Rev. T. C. Leinbach and Rev. E. S. Leinbach, Reformed pastors, were assisted by Rev. Joseph Freeman. The following year the church was completed and was dedicated May 20-21. The Lutheran pastor was assisted by Revs. H. C. Kline, D. D. Trexler, A. P. Pflueger, H. L. Straub, A. J. Long, and D. G. Gerberich; the Reformed pastors were assisted by Revs. Eli Hiester, G. W. Gerhard, J. H. Leeser, L. D. Stambaugh, S. A. Leinbach and W. F. More.

In 1914 the 175th anniversary was observed with the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

burning of the mortgage, October 25. The visiting pastors were G. D. Druckenmiller and Dr. I. C. Fisher. In 1922 the old Dieffenbach organ was replaced by a two-manual Austin organ at a price of over \$4,100. Since the building of the church the tower has been rebuilt. The church was built at a cost of over \$20,000. The property is free of debt except that a small amount is still due on the organ. The organ was dedicated November 19, 1922. Rev. Rufus E. Kern and Rev. M. L. Herbein were the visiting clergymen.

In 1913 the new Strausstown parish was organized with the following congregations: Zion, Strausstown; Friedens, (Shartlesville;) Trinity, Rehrersburg; Salem, Bethel; St. Paul's, Tulpehocken; and Christ, Little Tulpehocken. On



STRAUSSTOWN PARSONAGE

March 1, 1914 Rev. Ira W. Klick became pastor of the parish. In August of the same year it was decided to build a parsonage. The Strausstown congregation was to build in its own name, but the other congregations were "to put as much money into the project as they could,"—money to be loaned without interest as long as the congregations were a part of the parish. Otherwise it was due on demand. The result was that about four-fifths of the cost was paid by Zion church, Strausstown, and about one-fifth by the other congregations. The following April the parsonage was ready to be occupied. It is a large frame house of 12 rooms, costing approximately \$4000, contains all modern improvements and is free of debt. The Willing Workers

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Society has rendered very praiseworthy service both in the payment of the debt and in making further improvements and repairs.

The Rev. Frank W. Ruth is the present Reformed pastor.

The following is a list of the Lutheran pastors. The years of service appended to the first four names are in doubt: Revs. Daniel Schumacher, 1756-59; Peter Mischler; Daniel Lehman, 1778-1809; John Knoske, 1811; Benj. German, 1817-21; George Minnig, 1822-50; J. M. Dietzler, 1850-58; Hugo Grahn, D. D., 1859-61; Joel Grim, 1861-65; Aaron Finfrock, 1865-91; W. W. Kramlich, 1892-01; J. W. Early (supply), 1901-02; O. E. Pflueger, 1902-13; Ira W. Klick, 1914 to--.

FRIEDEN'S, SHARTLESVILLE

FRIEDEN'S Union Church of Upper Bern township is located outside of the town of Shartlesville on a commanding hill overlooking that entire territory. The town is located along the improved highway leading from Hamburg to Harrisburg. The reason for the organization of this Church was to give the people of the town and vicinity a more convenient place of worship. The original organizers and those who later joined were mostly members of St. Michael's, Strausstown, and Bernville Churches.

The first agitation for the building of a church took place in 1860, but nothing came of it. Ten years later on January 29, 1870 there was a preliminary meeting and an organization effected, under the chairmanship of James S. Hix. At this meeting church regulations were drawn up and signed. The Lutheran signers were Daniel Wagner, Benjamin Wagner, Moses Kaufman, Joseph K. Henne, Joel Long, Jared K. Baltharser, and James B. Nunemacher. The latter donated about four acres of land as a site on which to build. The Reformed signers were Jacob S. Kutz, Jacob Albright, Isaac L. Moyer, and Joseph Althouse.

The corner-stone was laid August 28, 1870. Rev. F. P. Mayser, D. D., and R. S. Appel were present besides probably one or two other clergymen. The basement of the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

church was first completed and was dedicated July 29, 1871. Revs. Thomas T. Jaeger, R. S. Appel, and Rittenhouse were the officiating clergymen. The first bell was cast by the McShane Bell Foundry and was dedicated November 9, 1879, when Revs. Leonard Groh, R. S. Appel, Chas Leinbach, D. D. Trexler, were present. The church proper was com-



FRIEDEN'S, SHARTLESVILLE CHURCH

pleted and dedicated September 8, 1889. Revs. D. D. Trexler, F. P. Mayser, D. D., S. B. Stupp, R. S Appel and Dr. Kayser officiated.

The next event of importance was the securing of a pipe organ. Mr. Thomas Dieffenbach of Bethel, Pa., was

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

engaged to build an organ for the church. The bell which was previously placed in the tower cracked and was recast. The names of the two pastors, D. D. Trexler and R. S. Appel are cast into the bell. On August 30, 1891, both the bell and the new organ were dedicated. Rev. D. D. Trexler and Rev. O. Miller officiated for the Lutherans and Rev. R. S. Appel and Dr. Kayser for the Reformed. The church was free of debt at the time of dedication.

On August 29, 1920, the semi-centennial of the laying of the corner-stone was celebrated, and the electric lights which had been installed, dedicated. Rev. Ira W. Klick, Rev. G. D. Druckenmiller and Dr. J. H. Raker were present for the Lutherans and Rev. R. S. Appel, and Rev. Meckstroth for the Reformed.

The church is a commodious brick building with a large central tower. A vestibule communicates with the basement and the church auditorium. The main auditorium is neatly frescoed. F. P. Mayser, D. D., was pastor from 1871-1874; Rev. D. D. Trexler from 1874-1913; Rev. Ira W. Klick from 1914 to the present time. Rev. R. S. Appel has been the first and only pastor on the Reformed side. He is 81 years old and hale and hearty.

Rev. Trexler's three sons, Martin, Samuel and Charles were confirmed in the church and may be called sons of this congregation. Martin died while a student at the Seminary. Samuel G. Trexler, D. D., is president of the New York and New England Synod. Charles D. Trexler is pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Brooklyn, N. Y.

A very flourishing Sunday School has been maintained in the church. It has a membership of over 200 and is doing excellent work.

TRINITY, REHRERSBURG

TRINITY Union Church, of Tulpehocken township, is located in the town of Rehrersburg, on the road leading to Strausstown. Previous to 1847 there was only one church in Rehrersburg. The Reformed people worshiped at Millersburg, Host, and Strausstown. About this time Rev. Isaac Miesse began to hold Reformed services in

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

the Lutheran church. There was also an effort made to turn the Lutheran church into a union church. At once a division sprang up among the Lutherans. Finally Rev. Miesse and his followers were entirely excluded from the church. The facts are not at hand as to who was to blame for the factional trouble. Rev. Miesse seems to have been an independent spirit. He separated himself entirely from the Reformed synod in 1863. This would seem to show that



TRINITY, UNION CHURCH

probably more of the trouble originated from this source than is apparent. It would no doubt have been wiser for the Lutherans to have kept control of their property but permit the Reformed to worship in their church.

In 1847 the Reformed with some Lutherans decided to build a new union church. A site was secured in the northern part of the town and the following building com-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

mittee was appointed: Lutheran, Henry Manbeck, Samuel Miller, Jacob Riehl, Christian Holzman; Reformed, George Berger, Benjamin Kline, Benjamin Klahr, and John Gerhart. The corner-stone was laid on Whitsunday, May 23, 1847. The dedication took place November 13-14 of the same year. Licentiate T. T. Iaeger preached the sermon. Rev. Isaac Miesse, Rev. George Minnig and Mr. J. M. Dietzler assisted in the service. At the same time Rev. Iaeger and Rev. Miesse were installed as pastors. One of the peculiar things seems to be that inasmuch as Rev. Miesse was the only Reformed minister present, Rev. Minnig, a Lutheran pastor, must have installed him. It seems also strange that Rev. T. T. Iaeger, who was only licensed and not ordained, should be installed as a pastor before his ordination.

The first Church Councils were as follows: Lutheran, Elders, Adam Manbeck and John Bechtel; Deacons, Joseph Manbeck and Henry Maidenford. Reformed: Elders, Daniel Kline and George Stoudt; Deacons, Godley Bordner and Peter Aulenbach. These Lutheran pastors served this Church: Revs. T. T. Iaeger, 1847-55; J. C. Schmidt, 1855-56; Chas. Reese, 1856-58; H. Grahn, D. D., 1858-1861; Joel Grim, 1861-66; Thomas Steck, 1866-68; D. D. Trexler, 1868-1913; Ira W. Klick, 1914 to the present.

The Rev. E. S. Leinbach has served the Reformed congregation since 1920.

A Kantner pipe organ was placed in the church in 1859. In 1897 the semi-centennial of the building of the church was celebrated. The sermons were delivered by Rev. Dr. Schantz and Rev. Dr. Brendel. There was a reunion of the catechumens also at this time. In 1912 the church was entirely remodeled. There was a second floor put in the church thus providing a basement for Sunday School purposes. The old galleries were torn out, leaded opalescent glass windows were put in, new pews and new pulpit furniture were installed. The walls were papered and the floor carpeted. The pipe organ was placed in the front part of the church. About \$6,000 were spent on the improvements and there is now a very comfortable brick church edifice, modernized and in first-class condition, free of all debt.

In 1886 a Union Mite Society was organized to assist

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

the congregation in meeting unusual expenses. It bought a chandelier for the church and erected an iron fence in front of the church. It contributed to the debt fund and aided very materially in the remodeling of the church.

In 1886 the Sunday School was organized. It has about 100 scholars and is doing good work.

SALEM, MILLERSBURG

SALEM Church of Bethel township, is located near the village of Millersburg (Bethel P. O.) at the forks of the road just north of the Little Swatara Creek, on the famous post road and Indian trail leading from Philadelphia and Reading across the Blue Mountain, close by



SALEM, MILLERSBURG CHURCH

Round Top and Fort Henry,—which figured in the French and Indian War,—to Shamokin and Sunbury.

The church building was erected in 1810 by the Reformed denomination on ground donated by a Lutheran,

Gottfried Rehrer, founder of Rehrersburg. The church is built of limestone and local mountain stone. In 1901 it was enlarged and remodeled. A new steeple was added, new galleries and a vestibule put in. It is now a commodious church with a Dieffenbach pipe organ, built by the somewhat famous Dieffenbachs of Millersburg (Bethel), who furnished so many pipe organs for the church in these parts.

The Lutheran people in the vicinity of this church formerly worshiped in the old Lutheran church of Rehrersburg. This (Salem) congregation was organized in 1852 by Rev. T. T. Jaeger. The first Council consisted of Martin Smith and Solomon Schreffler, Elders; Henry Brobst and John Burgert, Deacons. Before the organization took place the Reformed congregation was petitioned for the privilege to worship in their church. This right was granted under a written agreement signed by the Reformed Consistory and such voting members as were present, August 21, 1853.

This right was granted for "so long as the Lutherans wish it and the majority of the voting members of the Reformed congregation permit it." In case the Reformed wish to change or annul this right the matter must be brought in writing before the congregation, signed by one-third of the voting members of the Reformed congregation; and the election to change or annul must be announced four weeks by the pastors of both congregations.

This agreement provides that the Lutherans shall bring their voluntary gifts when repairs and improvements are made just as the Reformed do. It also provides that the Lutheran pastor must be a member of the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Pennsylvania. For seventy years these two congregations have lived up to the spirit of this agreement.

When the congregation was organized there were 25 communicants. The next year there were 48, including 11 catechumens. The first confirmation class consisted of the following: Tyrus Schreffler, Peter Wolf, Rebecca Leibig, Catharine Leibig, Sarah Batz, Sarah Clemens, Matilda Clemens, Louisa Ketner, Sybilla Dubbs, and Aaron Kreitzer.

The pastors were as follows: Rev. Thomas T. Jaeger,

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

1852-1854; Rev. J. C. Schmidt, 1855-1856; Rev. Hugo Grahn, D. D., 1858-1866; Rev. D. D. Trexler 1868-1913; Rev. Ira W. Klick, 1914, to the present.

In 1874 more members communed than at any time before or since.

There is a union Sunday School that holds its sessions in the school building. It has petitioned the church authorities for permission to meet in the church, but strange to say, up to this time the request has not been granted.

CHRIST, JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP

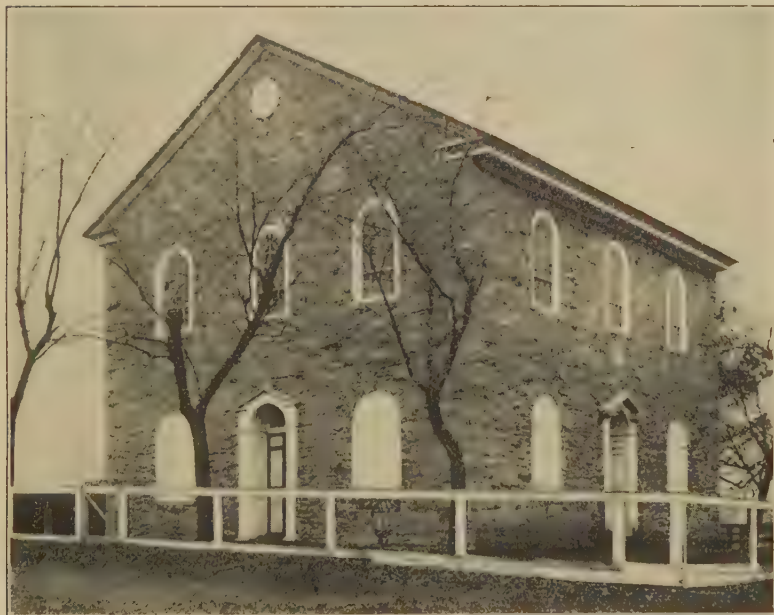
CHRIST Church (Little Tulpehocken) of Jefferson township, is located about one mile southwest of Bernville, on the road leading from Bernville along the Tulpehocken stream to Krick's Mills and Womelsdorf. It is located on a bluff on the north bank of the Tulpehocken. It may have received its name, Little Tulpehocken, from the fact that it was located in Tulpehocken township for more than 120 years, and also because it is located on the banks of that stream. It was probably called "little" because it always has been a small congregation with a small building. There are some who say that it is so called to distinguish it from Christ Tulpehocken Church, near Stouchsburg, which has always been a larger congregation worshiping in a larger building. Tradition prevails that in the "Tulpehocken Confusion" of Reed's Church, some of the Lutherans withdrew towards the east and organized Christ, Little Tulpehocken Church in 1730-34 and the others withdrew and went westward and organized Christ Tulpehocken Church near Stouchsburg in 1743. It certainly is significant that both churches are called Christ, and also Tulpehocken.

There has been a controversy between Frieden's Church, Bernville, and Christ Church, Little Tulpehocken, as to which of these two congregations is the older, and therefore Rev. John Caspar Stoevers' original congregation. The annotation found in the Hallische Nachrichten, Vol. II, p. 130, is entirely based on the authority of a former pastor of Frieden's Church, Rev. J. J. Cressman. Three celebrities on local church history, Rev. J. W. Early, M. A.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Gruber, of Washington, D. C., and Rev. Dr. P. C. Croll of Womelsdorf, have investigated the historical material, and all of them without exception have designated Little Tulpehocken as Rev. John Caspar Stoever's original church, and therefore the older. Space will not permit us to give all the evidence that has been accumulating, and that to any unbiased mind would be overwhelming and conclusive.

Rev. Early says: "That this is Rev. J. C. Stoever's original church in this vicinity, the one which he organized and



CHRIST LITTLE TULPEHOCKEN CHURCH

for which he preached, will not be questioned by any one who has read Rev. Mr. Stoever's own statement in regard to this matter. It is known that he was in the habit of introducing church books, or records, into the congregations which he organized and served. He did so here. This is his entry on the initial page of the book which he arranged for this congregation. It is in his own hand: 'Church book and pro to col of (for) the Evangelical Lutheran congregation down at the Tulpehocken near the Northkill. In it are

noted and recorded the children baptized in this church and congregation, as well as those regularly joined in matrimony, from 1730 on; derived in part from other church records and in part from my (own) manuscripts and collected in this (book) and to be continued in future by me, John Caspar Stoever, regularly called and ordained an Evangelical Lutheran minister, and pastor in charge of this and other congregations in Lancaster county, in the province of Pennsylvania. Done and executed in the year of our Lord, 1742.' This shows that the baptisms and marriages recorded here during that period were performed by him. This apart from the fact that under his own signature he states that this is his own congregation, should be conclusive."

It should here be stated that Rev. Stoever's own records were in continued possession of officers of Christ Church, from the very beginning until a few years ago, when Rev. Early deposited them by permission in the archives of the Berks County Historical Society for safe keeping. That is strong evidence.

With reference to the Halle Reports referred to above, Rev. Early says: "The least examination of the matter will show at once that that statement is simply a local tradition, accepted without any investigation."

Rev. Early then goes on to say that Rev. Tobias Wagner in his farewell address names Northkill (Frieden's) as one of his congregations that he served from 1744-46, so that he must have been pastor there while at Tulpehocken church near Stouchsburg. Rev. Stoever says he commenced his record at Little Tulpehocken in 1742 and that he had a Church there. Besides it is generally conceded that Rev. Mr. Stoever commenced his labors as pastor in 1730, according to his own church record which he started for Christ, Little Tulpehocken Church.

The warrant for the 35 acres belonging to Little Tulpehocken was executed in 1744, before the first Frieden's Church was built. Rev. Stoever also asserts that his church is located "down on the Tulpehocken near the Northkill." Frieden's Church is on the Northkill but about three-fourths of a mile from the Tulpehocken. Little Tulpehocken Church

is located a stone's throw from the Tulpehocken creek and about a mile from the Northkill. So much for this controversy.

Rev. John Caspar Stoever baptized the first child, that of Michael Shower, December 13, 1730. Michael Shower was mentioned as one of the trustees in the warrant of land executed May 17, 1744. The other trustee was Jacob Miller. The patent for this land was executed November 20, 1747 at Philadelphia. The price was 5 pounds, 8 shillings, and 5 pence, and an annual proprietary quit-rent of $\frac{1}{2}$ pence per acre. The persons mentioned as trustees in the patent are Jacob Miller, Simon Minnig, Conrad Ernst, Mathias Smith, Henry Gruber and Martin Batteicher. The patent is signed by Thomas and Richard Penn, and is still in the possession of the congregation.

Between 1744 and 1749 a log church was built which remained in use until 1809. We know that there was a church building prior to 1749 because a marriage is recorded by Rev. Stoever to have taken place in that year, September 3, "in the church,"—Adam Fischborn and Elizabeth Keppeler.

In 1809 the old log church was demolished and a new church built of stone. Some of the material of the old church was used in the building of a house at Krick's Mills which is still standing. The corner-stone of the new church was laid on June 25, 1809, and the following declaration was placed in the stone:

"In the name of the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost lay we, the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Tulpehocken township, Berks County, Province of Pennsylvania, the corner-stone for our new church about to be built (meaning Christ Church) in which to hear God's Word and to have the Sacraments administered.

"This our sacred act took place in the year of our Lord 1809, the 25th of June, and in the 33rd year of our independence under the administration of James Madison, and Simon Schneider, Governor of Pennsylvania. Building Committee: Mathias Smith, — Lingel, John Wenrich, John Miller; Elders: Paul Wenrich, Mathias Smith; Deacons: John Schell, Michael Miller."

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

On June 7, 1813, a congregational meeting was held and final settlement was made incident to the building. After all bills were paid there was left 2 pounds, 8 shillings, and 6½ pence. This is rather a remarkable record. This balance was donated to Mr. Frederick Schaeffer, a deacon, for unusual services. The church is a substantial stone structure and still in use. It is 40 feet long and 34 feet wide. It has three entrances, galleries on three sides, and two stoves in the middle. The original pulpit was of wineglass pattern, with canopy or sounding board.

In 1853 the church was remodeled and very much changed. At this time the Reformed people were given equal rights in church and farm for the modest sum of 65 dollars. The dedication was held November 27, 1853. In July 1862 a contract was made with Joel Kantner, pipe organ builder, for one of his organs for \$600. This organ is still in use. In 1874 the church was again improved and an addition built to the barn. There was raised for this purpose \$1140.80.

In 1789 the first known by-laws were adopted. They are still extant. In 1880 another set of by-laws were adopted. In 1893 a new cemetery was laid out. In 1911 shedding was provided for 20 teams or automobiles.

The farmhouse is a substantial brick building, in the basement of which the parochial school was held. There are still people living who attended this school before the free school system was adopted. All the farm buildings are in good repair with running water in the house and at the barn. There are probably few congregations approaching the age of this one that can show the same amount of old records preserved. It shows also that there was an unusual amount of business forms and methods used for those times. There are innumerable records of offerings, subscriptions, receipts, contracts and by-laws, some dating back to the middle of the 18th century.

The record of the pastors is not very complete. We have the following to offer: Revs. John Caspar Stoever, 1730-54(56); Emmanuel Schultze, 1771 to---; John Caspar Stoever, 1773-74; Emmanuel Schultze, ---to 1809; Daniel Ulrich, 1809-30; Maurice Harpel; J. Carl Smith; Charles

Reese; Hugo Grahn, D. D., 1859-61; T. Steck, 1866-68; D. D. Trexler, 1868-78; A. J. Long, 1878-1908; W. S. Dry, 1910-13; Rev. Ira W. Klick, 1914 to---

The Rev. F. W. Ruth has served the Reformed congregation since 1918.

ST. PAUL'S, TULPEHOCKEN

 T. PAUL'S Union Church of Jefferson township is located in the village of New Schaefferstown (Tulpehocken P. O.), along the state road leading from Rehrersburg to Bernville and Reading.

Before the organization of this Church, people of this community worshiped at the Host, Rehrersburg, Strausstown, and Bernville churches. The preliminary meeting at which it was decided to build a church was held on June 13, 1884, when the following were present: John J. Holzman, Adam K. Derr, William Yeakley, Isaac K. Derr, Frank H. Schaeffer, Michael Knoll, Adam L. Gottschall, Aaron S. Knoll, Aaron M. Fox, Levi K. Derr, David W. Lengel, Adam M. Wagner, and Henry H. Holzman. The building committee was appointed at this meeting and was the following: John J. Holzman, William Yeakley, Michael Knoll, and Isaac K. Derr. John J. Holzman donated the ground on which the church was to be built.

The corner-stone was laid August 24, 1884. Rev. A. Finfrock preached the sermon and Revs. A. J. Long, T. C. Leinbach, L. D. Stambaugh, Eli Hiester and Aaron Leiss were present and took part. The church was completed and dedicated on July 19, 1885. Rev. A. Finfrock and Rev. T. C. Leinbach officiated, the latter preaching the sermon. Rev. D. D. Trexler and Rev. H. J. Welker preached during the day.

The church building was erected before the congregations were organized. Accordingly on November 22, 1885, Rev. B. E. Kramlich, president of the Conference, organized the Lutheran congregation. The first Church Council consisted of the following: Trustees, David W. Lengel, and Frank Schaeffer; Elders, William Yeakley and Adam L. Gottschall; Deacons, J. Adam Holzman and J. Adam Miller.

In 1913 the church was renovated. A metal ceiling

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

was put in. The church was frescoed and recarpeted. In 1918 the pipe organ of Zion Union Church of Womelsdorf was bought and installed at a cost of over \$800. In 1921 a new furnace was installed.

Rev. A. J. Long supplied the pulpit for a short time and then became the pastor. He served the congregation until his death September 13, 1908. The congregation was



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, SCHAEFFERSTOWN

then supplied by different men. In January, 1911, Rev. W. K. Fisher became the pastor and served a little more than a year.

Rev. W. S. Dry then preached for seven months. Supplies followed this until the fall of 1913 when this church was included in the newly-formed Strausstown parish. Rev. Ira W. Klick became pastor March 1, 1914 and has been

serving ever since.

The Rev. F. W. Ruth is the present Reformed pastor.

The building is a two-story brick church, in excellent repair, with all the conveniences of a modern church, and free of debt.

A successful and flourishing Sunday School has been conducted in this town since before the church was built. After the church was completed the Sunday School was moved into the church building.

CHRIST, STOUCHSBURG

CHRIST Evangelical Lutheran Church on the Tulpehocken is located in Marion township, Berks county. There is a record of a settlement of the Palatinates who had journeyed from Schoharie, New York, to the mouth of the Swatara and reached Tulpehocken in 1723, and a later arrival and settlement of other Palatinates also from Schoharie in 1728. These settlements were followed by those of German immigrants, who landed in Philadelphia and sought cheaper though good land beyond that settled by the earlier immigrants. During the twenty years preceding the organization of the congregation these early settlements had grown rapidly. In the hearts of these honest, God-fearing people was a desire to have a house of worship and the advantages of a Christian school. A log church building had already been erected and dedicated in 1727, but the "Tulpehocken Confusion" led to the organization and establishment of Christ Church, whose records date from its organization in 1743 and have been kept with care and labor. The following entry appears on the third page: "After the Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Tulpehocken had by God's blessing grown considerably and also on land secured for Lutheran services near the mill, where Mill Creek flows into the Tulpehocken, erected a church, built of wood and secured the vessels for Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the land and church building passed unexpectedly into the hands of the Moravian brethern." The Lutherans were required to secure another house of worship. Christian Lauer, Jacob Fisher and George Unruh gave each voluntarily and in

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Christian love and liberality five acres of land for one shilling as a present. It was specified that in the church building erected on this land "the Word of God, both the Old and New Testament, but particularly on Sundays and Festival days, the Gospels and Epistles appointed in the Christian Churches in ancient days shall be purely read as



CHRIST CHURCH, STOUCHSBURG

God's Word and explained and presented to the congregation. In like manner shall the Holy Sacrament of Baptism, and the Lord's Supper be administered according to the Words of Administration without adulteration." In an opening made in two stones, one laid upon another, in a walnut box were deposited the following—a Bible, containing

the Gospel bound in leather, a bottle of water, some wheat bread and a bottle containing wine.

The Reverend Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America had arrived in Philadelphia on November 25, 1742, and appeared in the summer of 1743 for the first time in the Tulpehocken region, where he found the people divided in regard to Pastor Stoever. Muhlenberg became acquainted with Conrad Weiser, who was opposed to both Leutbecker and Stoever. Upon the advice of Muhlenberg the Rev. Tobias Wagner was called. Pastor Wagner had come as a Lutheran minister from Wuertenberg via New England. In the summer of 1743 under the building committee, consisting of Abraham Lauk and Michael Mueller the church building was erected. The building was solemnly consecrated December 25, 1743. Pastor Wagner served until April 3, 1746. His pastorate seems not to have been marked by that harmony between pastor and people, which is important for the growth of the Church. Muhlenberg tried to reconcile the parties and did what he could to bring all to an agreeable understanding. Pastor Wagner labored in other parts of Pennsylvania and finally returned to Wuertenberg, where he died in 1779. Pastor Wagner's entries in the Church Record are baptisms 72, marriages 18, confirmations 23, communicants 195. No burials are recorded during his pastorate. Among the marriage entries is one of peculiar interest and importance. It is recorded in the year 1745 as follows—"Se Wol. Ehrwerden Herr Heinrich Melchior Muehlenberg best verdienenter Lutherischer Prediger des—, mit Jungfer Anna Maria Weiserin des Hoch Edeln H. Justus Conrad Weiser's allhier H. ledige Tochter proclaimirt und copulirt Freitags nach Ostern." The following Deacons served during this pastorate—Andreas Wolf, Johann Nicolaus Schwengel, and George Lechner, Michael Naef, George Graef, Adam Lasch, and Balthasar Anspach. The congregation was supplied by Muhlenberg and his colaborers, Peter Brumholtz and Johann Nicolaus Kurtz, John Helfrich Schaum. Johann Nicolaus Kurtz came to the Tulpehocken in December, 1746, and had at first his home with Conrad Weiser. He preached regularly at Christ Church and at Lancaster, Pa., spending

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

two Sundays at Tulpehocken and two Sundays at Lancaster. The parsonage was erected in February, 1747, at a cost of 103 pounds, 2 shillings, 2 pence. It was first occupied by Pastor Kurtz on September 5, 1747. On December 9, 1747, Pastor Kurtz was married at New Hanover to Anna Elizabeth Seidel. Pastor Muhlenberg performed the ceremony. Pastor Kurtz was the first man to be ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. This took place at its first meet-



"FIRST PARSONAGE AND FORTIFICATION OF CHRIST CHURCH. MUHLENBERG MARRIED IN THIS HOUSE APRIL 22, 1745."

ing held August 25, 1748 in St. Michael's Church, Philadelphia, upon the request of the congregations. This request was signed by Johann Nicolaus Schwengel, Adam Loesch, Balthasar Anspach and Johannes Immel of the Church Council of Christ Church at Tulpehocken, and also by Adam

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Laub and Martin Batorf, Deacons at Tulpehocken and Andreas Boyer, Deacon of Nord Kiel (Bernville).

Further improvements were made to the church property in 1747. There was subscribed 14 pounds, 4 shillings and 6 pence. Conrad Weiser in 1747 advanced money to furnish the church building with pews. The church was fully completed by 1751. The organ was secured from John



SECOND PARSONAGE, STANDING NEAR CHURCH
BIRTHPLACE OF GOVERNOR SCHULZE

Clem in Philadelphia for 127 pounds, 3 shillings, 4 pence. Subscriptions were received in 1755 for the erection of a wall to enclose the burial ground. The congregation began the erection of a new schoolhouse in 1758. In 1763 the congregation purchased 15 acres and 60 rods from Peter Leddermann for 92 pounds. Parsonage repairs, etc., were made in 1764 at an expense of 34 pounds, 12 shillings, 1 pence. Pastor Kurtz was pastor of Christ Church, the Church at Nord Keil, Bernville and Reed's Church from his ordination in 1748, of the Corner Church from 1750 and of Altohoe, Rehrersburg, until 1770, when he removed to York. The Pastoral Record of 1748-1770 shows the activity

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

of Pastor Kurtz: baptisms 983; confirmations 458; marriages 51; burials 52.

Pastor Kurtz was succeeded in February, 1771 by Pastor Christoph Emmanuel Schulze, who served as pastor of this charge for 38 years, until his death on March 9, 1809. Pastor Schulze in 1776 married Eve Elizabeth, a daughter of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. John Andrew Melchior the third child of their marriage was licensed in 1796, ordained in 1800 and assisted his father, but later resigned because of ill health. John Andrew Melchior Schulze was twice elected governor of his native state. Pastor Schulze served this parish during the eventful years of the War of Independence 1775-1783. The Church Record shows the following pastoral acts during these years—baptisms 2313, confirmations 915, marriages 1589, and there were only 37 burials, which have been recorded.

Rev. Daniel Ulrich was elected and succeeded as pastor in July, 1811. Some of the congregations had opposed him at first, but finally united in the call. Others, namely Womelsdorf, Myerstown and Schaefferstown positively declined to unite in it and formed a separate parish under Rev. William Beatis. Pastor Ulrich served Christ Church, Zion (Reed's), Rehrersburg, Heidelberg, St. Daniel's and Newmanstown about forty years. During his years of activity the following pastoral acts are recorded—baptisms 2071, confirmations 3144, marriages 1108, burials 1697. A new organ built by Joel Krause of Allentown, Pa., was secured in 1837. During his pastorate the War of 1812-14 was fought between the United States and England. Pastor Ulrich died June 2, 1855 and was buried on Christ Church Cemetery.

Rev. Lewis G. Eggers was elected pastor of the Tulpehocken charge in 1852 and served faithfully until April, 1867, when he retired from the active ministry because of ill health. In this parish, Pastor Eggers baptized 1285, confirmed 748, married 424, buried 624. A belfry with steeple and a 1500 pound bell were added in August, 1855. The pastorate of Rev. Eggers was marked by the terrible Civil War period 1861-65, when he was frequently called

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

upon to minister to the distressed and deeply afflicted families.

The Reverend Frederick P. Mayser was elected pastor in June, 1868, and continued until February 1, 1874. The Church Record shows the following ministerial acts—baptisms 210, confirmations 141, marriages 39, burials 114.

The Reverend A. Johnson Long was elected pastor in 1874 and came to the parish from the Seminary. The church was damaged by a heavy dynamite explosion on November 6, 1884. It was remodeled at an expense of \$6500 and dedicated on December 26, 1885. The building committee was John L. Moyer, Isaac Lebo, John L. Fisher, Morris Scharf and Levi Moyer. This fine historic and renovated church was struck by lightning on August 1, 1887 at 9:30 P. M. and in a few hours only the four walls were left. The new bell was consecrated on June 16, 1888, the Sunday School room, June 17, and the Church on October 7. The loss had been partly covered by \$6500 insurance. The total cost of rebuilding was \$7500. The building committee was Jacob Schaeffer, Morris Scharf and John Hoffman. A new cemetery was opened in 1879. The cemetery was north of the church. The large pipe organ was con-



NEW PARSONAGE IN STOUCHSBURG

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

secrated on Ascension Day, May 15, 1890. The Sesqui-centennial Anniversary was observed September 3, 1893. Pastor Long served this congregation until his death in 1909. The ministerial acts of Pastor Long in the Parish Record as they are carefully recorded are as follows—baptisms 1338, confirmations 1082, marriages 1027, burials 937.

The Reverend William S. Dry was elected pastor and served from June 13, 1909 until October 29, 1921 when he resigned to accept a call to become pastor of the Maxatawny-Mertztown parish. The splendid parsonage was erected in 1914 at an expense of \$5500. The church and parsonage are free of debt. The following ministerial acts were performed: baptisms 402, confirmations 276, marriages 184, burials 355. The members of the building committee for the parsonage erected in Stouchsburg were: Riley Zerbe, John Schoener and George McLaughlin.

The Reverend D. F. Longacre was elected pastor on February 12, 1922, and installed by the president of the Reading Conference on June 18, 1922.

Miss Emma Grimes is the efficient organist of this congregation.

Rev. John W. Klingler and Rev. W. K. Fisher are sons of the congregation in the ministry.

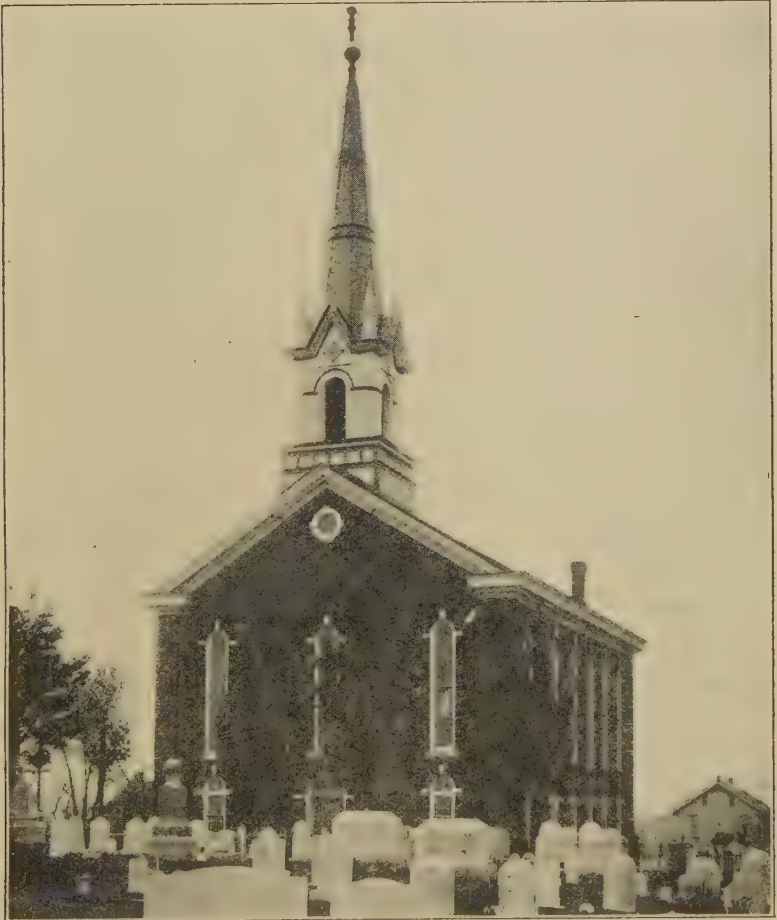
ALTALAHA, REHRERSBURG

THE name Altohoe was given to the region comprised in the tract of land that was laid out for Richard Penn on the northeast branch of the Swahataweo Creek and pertains particularly to the Lutheran congregation established in that region about 1746 to 1750, now known as Altalaha Lutheran Church at the western end of Rehrersburg. There was given to that congregation a tract of four acres out of the northwestern portion of John Wolfart's tract of one hundred-sixty-six acres. According to the plan of the manor, the Lutheran church at Rehrersburg was about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles from the northern boundary of the manor, almost $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles from the eastern boundary, 2 miles from the southern boundary and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the western boundary.

It is quite likely that the Church was already organized

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

about 1746-1750 for in the private records of Pastor John Caspar Stoever we find credited to Altohoe between the years 1746-1763 the following ministerial acts: marriages 41, baptisms 106. A church book for the purpose of record-



ALTALAHA CHURCH, REHRERSBURG

ing therein the baptisms by the pastors of what is now the Altalaha Lutheran congregation was purchased and the records begin with the year 1757. "Im Namen Gottes des Vaters, des Sohnes and des Heiligen Geistes ist dieses Kirchen Buch im Jahr 1757 von gut hertzigen und Christ-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

lich Ordnung Liebenden Leuden zu unserer Evangelisch Lutherische Kirchen all hier an der Bieber Creek erkaufft werden von denen damaligen Kirchenforsteher als Thomas Kurr und Abraham Schneider von Christlichen Hertzen zur Ehre Gottes ercollectiert werden, naemlich zu dem Ende dass alle Kinder welche von unsern Herrn Pfarrer und in unsere bemaeldigen Kirchen zur Heiligen Tauf gebracht werden, in dem jedem zu seinem besten in dieses Buch eingeschrieben wereden soll." Rev. Johann Nicolaus Kurtz, the first pastor of this congregation wrote on the title page of the Church Record in large letters "Soli Deo Gloria". In 1765 Henry Holzman granted to the Trustees, Christian Moyer, Ulrich Fisher, Jacob Reed and Thomas Kurr 2½ acres for school purposes. Sebastian Brosius added 60 rods and Godfrey Roehrer 38 rods and in 1786 four acres more and later still more land was added until there was about 13 acres. In 1765, a two-story meeting-house of logs, which stood about 100 feet west of the present building was completed for worship. This old log church was demolished about 1810 and the material was used for the building of a residence near the center of the town. The present church edifice, built of brick, was erected in 1808. Each member was to pay one-third of his subscription on January 1, 1808; one-third when the church was under roof; and the last third upon the day of dedication. In addition, the members further promised to haul stones and building material and work for a certain number of days. The members of the Reformed Church were to have a voice in the Church, to have their own pastor and to preach, baptize, and have Communion as often as they wished except when the Lutherans have service. The Reformed were furthermore to have the right to use the cemetery. But the records do not show that the Reformed worshiped regularly in this church. The members of the building committee were Daniel Hoffman, Thomas Kurr, Jacob Artzt, John Emerick, Gottfried Riehl, Martin Walborn and Henry Walborn. George Malsberger had charge of the masons and John Weber of the carpenters. The first steeple, which was built in 1849, was removed in 1882 and another built. A

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

fine bell was added to the church property at this time. The church was enlarged and remodeled in 1886 at an expense of \$8,000. The basement was consecrated on October 31, 1886 and the church was consecrated on May 14, 1887.

Some 30 years after the church was built, about 1795, a parochial school was established and a two-roomed house of logs built for the purpose. The congregation had the same pastors as Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church on the Tulpehocken. The church is free of debt. Revs. J. J. Kline and S. B. Stupp have entered and are serving in the ministry. Miss Emma Grimes is the organist.

The following pastors have served here: Revs. John Nicolaus Kurtz, 1757-1770; C. E. Schulze, 1771-1809; Daniel Ulrich, 1811-1851; L. G. Eggers, 1852-1867; F. P. Mayser, 1868-1874; A. Johnson Long, 1875-1909; W. S. Dry, 1909-1921; D. F. Longacre, 1922 to—.

ST. ELIAS, NEWMANSTOWN

 T. ELIAS Evangelical Lutheran Church is situated in Newmanstown, in the northeast corner of Mill Creek township, Lebanon county, in the beautiful and historic Lebanon valley. The town is a thriving industrial center and possesses a progressive community spirit.

In accordance with a deed executed on December 13, 1822, one-half acre of land was sold by Peter and Catharine Zeller to John Schultz and George Unruh for 16 pounds. This land was to be used for school purposes. Upon this land there was erected a schoolhouse, which was used both for church and school purposes. The members of the Lutheran and Reformed Church filed an application with the proper authorities of Lebanon county and were incorporated as Elias Church on November 17, 1843. The charter was read on January 27, 1844 before 37 members, who signified their approval of the same. At a union congregational meeting on October 8, 1884, the following men were elected to constitute a building committee: Isaac M. Gerhard, Benjamin Richard, George Schock and John Person. By a vote of 22 for and 11 against, it was decided to build a Sunday School room under the church. For a site upon which to

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

erect a Lutheran and Reformed Church there was purchased from John and Anna Zellers 48½ perches of land for \$25.76. The trustees representing the joint Church Councils were Isaac M. Gerhard, Frederick Schultz, Samuel Lapse and Daniel Geiss. Rev. Daniel Ulrich served the



ST. ELIAS CHURCH, NEWMANSTOWN

Lutheran congregation and Rev. Augustus C. Pauli served the Reformed congregation at this time. The schoolhouse was sold for \$101. The new edifice cost about \$10,000 and the bell \$235. The Church building was completely remodeled in 1905 during the pastorate of Rev. Long. This renovation cost \$13,575 (building \$11,000; organ \$1600; bell \$525 and pews \$450). The church is free of debt.

Assisting the church in its work is a union Sunday School, which is a center of real Christian zeal and activity and assists in the teaching function of the Church. A great deal of splendid work is done by a Luther League and Young People's Society, both of which seek to train leaders for the work of the Church. Under the capable leadership of Paul Witter a splendidly trained choir greatly assists in the rendition of the services, and furnishes beautiful special music.

The Rev. A. J. Bachman has served the Reformed congregation since 1878.

The following have been the Lutheran pastors: Revs. Daniel Ulrich, 1821-1851; L. G. Eggers, 1852-1867; E. P. Mayser, 1868-1874; A. Johnson Long, 1874-1909; W. S. Dry, 1909-1921; D. F. Longacre, 1922 to---

ST. PAUL'S, MILLBACH

ST. PAUL'S Evangelical Lutheran Church is situated in Mill Creek township, Lebanon county, on the road leading from Newmanstown to Schaefferstown. This valley lies beneath Eagle's Peak where on March 22, 1751 the venerable Patriarch Henry Melchior Muhlenberg together with Rev. J. C. Hartwig of Otsego county, New York, and Rev. P. Brumholtz, pastor of the Lutheran Church and Conrad Weiser journeyed after a pastoral conference held at the home of Conrad Weiser. Records show that the first church in the Mill Creek valley was organized here in the year 1747 and that the first building was erected in 1753. This was a rude log meeting-house and was followed by a frame church, which in 1790 was replaced by the present stone structure. The land was donated by a Mr. Miller with the understanding that a stone church should be erected and that those uniting in its construction should have the privilege of worship. But the members of the Lutheran faith had just united with and pledged their support to Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church on the Tulpehocken and had assisted in the building of a church at that place in 1743. The church was erected and was Reformed until the year 1853, when the Lutheran and Reformed members united and drew up a constitution. The church was

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

remodeled and by the expenditure of several thousand dollars was changed into a modern church building with its stately walls and beautifully arranged interior. The church building was rededicated on November 27, 1853. The Reverend L. G. Eggers in 1854 accepted a call and became the first regular Lutheran pastor of this congregation.

Among the members who labored faithfully and who



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, MILLBACH

were instrumental in this union of the two congregations were: Michael Holstein, John Holstein, Peter Keiser, John Zimmerman, George Zimmerman, John Hartman and Jonathan Illig. The present building was enlarged and improved at considerable expense and dedicated May 31, 1891. The members of the building committee were: Capt. John C.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Batdorf, E. R. Illig, H. L. Illig, and Edward J. Hartman. Special aid was offered at the time of this rebuilding by Jacob Shaak, M. M. Moore, George S. Moore, John B. Moore and Edward S. Moore.

Though not strong numerically, this congregation rightly prides itself upon the fact that it is free of debt and that it labors faithfully, contributes regularly and gives to the Church in spirit and labor that which it lacks in numerical strength. Miss Lucy M. Wolfskill is the organist.

The Rev. A. J. Bachman has served the Reformed congregation since 1878.

The following have served the Lutheran congregation: Revs. L. G. Eggers, 1854-1867; F. P. Mayser, 1868-1874; A. Johnson Long, 1874-1909; W. S. Dry, 1909 to 1921; D. F. Longacre, 1922 to---



CHRIST CHURCH, ROCKLAND

CHRIST, ROCKLAND TOWNSHIP

THIS congregation was organized early in the year 1747 by Rev. Tobias Wagner. The first church was erected in 1747 on three-fourths of an acre of land donated by Henry Mertz in the spring of 1747. Like many of the first church buildings of that period, it was built of

logs and was ready for use by fall of the same year. The people, had, however, secured a church home, humble as it was, in which God's Word could be preached and the Sacraments could be administered according to the divine institution. The first church building remained unfinished for a long time, for it was not completed before the year 1759. Papers show that as early as 1748, 28 acres of land were surveyed for the congregation. Subsequently some of this land was sold, leaving more than 20 acres for the Church.

The second church building was erected in the year 1764 during the pastorate of Rev. Johann Helfrich Schaum. The corner-stone was laid June 1, 1764. Among the papers preserved by the congregation is a copy of the declaration made and deposited in the corner-stone. The declaration shows the doctrinal basis of the congregation, the unaltered Augsburg confession and other symbolical books, according to which the word of God was to be preached and the sacraments administered as long as the sun and moon and house should stand. The corner-stone was laid on Trinity Sunday, and the following articles were deposited in the corner-stone: a copy of Luther's Catechism, a copy of the Bible, some wafers and wine and a copy of the declaration. The declaration states that this was done during the reign of the most gracious king of England, George the Third. The document closes with the words, "God preserve the king," and was signed by Johann Helfrich Schaum, pastor.

The second church was built in as much as the first church was too small to accommodate the congregation, the number of whose members had greatly increased. The congregation worshiped in the first church building during the fearful French and Indian War of 1755-1763. The second church was erected after the close of the French and Indian War. George Schaeffer, Sr., Henry Mertz, John Bieber, George Hoeffler and Jacob Freu constituted the building committee. In this second church the fathers worshiped from 1764-1798, a period of 34 years.

During these 34 years the following pastors ministered to the congregation: J. Helfrich Schaum, Daniel Lehman, and possibly Charles Frederick Wildbahn. The members of the congregation had many varied experiences. Continued

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

labors were necessary to cultivate the soil and to bring new land under cultivation. The people rejoiced when the French and Indian War had closed, but a decade thereafter the relation of the colony to the English government became very threatening. The eight long years of the Revolutionary War brought painful separations in many households and the sacrifice of life and property. The close of the war brought peace and joy, but also the dire results of war. The war for independence cut off the supply of ministers from the Fatherland and necessitated the training of ministers in this country. In the nineties of the last century the United States also felt the influence of French infidelity and German rationalism. When Zion's Lutheran Church, of Philadelphia, was on fire in 1794, men used every effort and succeeded in extinguishing the fire, but from a large crowd who did nothing to save the church came the cry, "Let the church burn down."

The third church building, was erected in 1798, 51 years after the erection of the first church building. The necessity had, however, again arisen for a larger building and the fathers of 1798 determined to erect a large and substantial church building to stand by God's favor a century and longer.

On May 12, 1799, the proposition to the congregation to apply for the incorporation of the congregation was signed



THE OLD MERTZ CHURCH

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

by Philip Mertz, Conrad Ernst, George Drey, Theobold Bieber, Jacob Bieber, Peter Fisher, Jacob Heinrich, Abraham Bieber and Peter Weyda. The petition for the charter was signed November 25, 1799, by 68 persons. The charter was prepared in English and German.

The charter contained the following names: Charles Frederick Wildbahn, pastor; Conrad Ernst, Theobold Bieber, Jacob Bieber, Abraham Bieber, wardens; Philip Mertz, George Frey, Henry Fisher, Peter Fisher, Frederick Bauer, George Sell, Anthony Heffner, John Hilbert and William Mertz, present vestrymen.

The records show that on March 9, 1827, an agreement was made with Andreas Krause for an organ of 10 stops, the price of the organ to be \$608, the organ to be ready for consecration on Whitsunday. The agreement was signed by Andreas Krause, George Beck, Adam Friederich, and the witnesses were August Schuckart and George Herlein.

The third church was built in 1798 and the organ secured in 1827. The building was used 61 years and necessary repairs were no doubt made from time to time. In the year 1859 the church building was renovated, new flooring and new pews replaced the old. The chancel was changed and a fine railing added. The old wineglass pulpit was removed and a new pulpit erected.

In the year 1873 a new organ was secured and consecrated. A steeple and bell were added and the church was frescoed in 1879. In 1895 the fine wooden ceiling, the frescoing of the walls and new carpets constituted the last renovation of the church.

When the first church was built on the three-quarters of an acre of ground, donated by Henry Mertz, the congregation soon also secured between 20 and 30 acres of ground, a part of which was made a "God's acre."

The following pastors served here:—Rev. Tobias Wagner, 1747-1759; Rev. Johann Helfrich Schaum, 1760-1778; Rev. Daniel Lehman, 1778-1793, and possibly later. (Rev. Henry Muhlenberg, Jr., V. D. M., who signed the account of the annual statment in 1779, was no doubt a supply for Pastor Lehman.) Rev. Charles Frederick Wildbahn, 1798 or '99-1801; Rev. Daniel Lehman as supposed, between 1801

and 1810; Rev. Johann Knoske, 1811-1837; Rev. Isaac Roeller, 1838 or '9-1860; Rev. Benjamin E. Kramlich, 1860-1900; Rev. A. C. Schenck, 1900-1902; Rev. J. O. Henry, 1902-1909; Rev. Wm. H. Kline, 1909 to---

The one hundredth anniversary of the erection of the third church building was fittingly observed, Sunday, September 11, 1898. A son of the congregation, Rev. Benj. G. Welder, of Reamstown, delivered the morning sermon. He took for his text the 100th Psalm. His discourse was in German. At 2 p. m. the services were resumed. After a selection by the choir, reading of the Scriptures, etc., Rev. F. J. F. Schantz, D. D., of Myerstown, historian of the Lutheran Ministerium, delivered the historical sermon. In the evening Rev. C. F. Dry, of Mifflinville, Pa., another son of Rockland township and catechumen of Rev. B. E. Kramlich, delivered an English sermon. His text was Zacharias 6:13. Rev. F. K. Bernd, a member of the faculty of the Keystone State Normal School, was in attendance all day and assisted in the exercises. At noon, when the large crowd was gathering, the old church bell tolled 100 strokes in honor of the occasion. The centennial celebration was proposed by Rev. B. E. Kramlich who was then pastor and through his efforts became such a great success. He conducted the affair most gracefully.

On February 14, 1915, the congregation, by a large majority, decided to build a new church. April 11, 1915, after the Communion services, ground was broken for the erection of the new edifice. A short liturgical service was held outside of the church. After prayer, Rev. Kline turned the first shovelful of ground, followed by the elders and deacons and members of the Church. Among those from a distance was District Attorney Harry D. Schaeffer, of Reading, whose mother and grandparents were active members of the Church.

The corner-stone laying took place on June 20, 1915. It attracted upwards of 1200 people. Services were held in the morning and afternoon. Four pastors participated. A canvas roof had been erected over the first floor of the proposed edifice and this served as a shelter against the hot sun.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

The ceremonies prescribed in the Lutheran Church Book were conducted at the close of the regular service in the afternoon by the pastor, Rev. William H. Kline, of Tipton. He was assisted by Rev. Charles E. Kistler, of Reading, president of the Reading Conference; Rev. J. O. Henry, superintendent of the Lutheran Orphans' Home of Tipton, who was formerly pastor of the local congregation; and Rev. A. C. Schenck, of Philadelphia, who served as Rev. Henry's predecessor.

The morning service was in charge of the pastor and was conducted in the English language. Rev. Schenck preached the sermon, basing his remarks on the text Cor. 9:10.

The afternoon service was conducted in the German language. The choir opened by singing an anthem, "When the Lord Shall Build." The Rev. C. E. Kistler, president of the Reading Conference, preached from Isaiah 28:16. He was followed by a German address delivered by Rev. J. O. Henry, former pastor. After the singing of another anthem and hymn, the corner-stone was formally laid.

The new church costing \$11,000.00 was dedicated on Whitsunday, June 11, 1916. The pastor, Rev. William H. Kline, conducted the rites in conformity with the Lutheran custom, and Rev. Robert B. Lynch, of Kutztown, president of the Reading Conference, preached the sermon. The following pastors were present: Revs. Kline, Lynch, W. F. Bond, C. E. Kistler, J. O. Henry, George B. Smith, Charles F. Dry, and William S. Dry, Judge of the Orphans' Court, Harry D. Schaeffer, was present and delivered a brief address in the afternoon. Rev. Lynch's text for the consecration sermon was taken from Col. 1:17-18. He preached in English. At the forenoon service Rev. Charles F. Dry read the Scripture lesson and Rev. Henry offered prayer. In the afternoon Rev. Lynch was in charge of the devotional exercises. The Scripture lesson was read by Rev. Henry. Rev. Kistler delivered a sermon in the German language. His theme was based on Acts 2:1-11. Rev. J. O. Henry spoke briefly and Rev. W. F. Bond, pastor of the New Jerusalem congregation, made a short address. In the evening the sermon was preached by the Rev. Charles F. Dry, whose

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

text was Psalm 147, verse 2. The Fleetwood male chorus assisted the choir.

The congregation has given five of its sons for the ministry: The Revs. Benjamin G. Welder, ordained 1886, died April 28, 1921; Charles F. Dry, ordained 1890; Charles G. Heffner, ordained 1908; Dr. Clarence E. Keiser, ordained 1908; and William S. Dry, ordained 1909.

An all day program featured the celebration of the 175th anniversary of the founding of the congregation with services morning, afternoon and evening on Sunday, November 26, 1922. At the morning service the Sunday School marched into the Church in a body. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Charles F. Dry, of Mifflinville, a son of the congregation. His text was Mark 10:14. The Rev. J. S. Stahr, of the Oley Reformed Church delivered an address at this service.

At 12 o'clock, noon, the bell rang for three minutes in honor of the occasion, followed by 30 seconds of silence. The afternoon services were the most largely attended during the day. The Rev. H. A. Weller, D. D., president of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, delivered the chief address. Other speakers were Judge Harry D. Schaeffer, and Revs. J. O. Henry, C. G. Heffner, Dr. C. E. Keiser, R. B. Lynch, J. B. Landis.

Messrs. Ernest J. Stansfield and A. H. Smith brought greetings from St. Paul's, Fleetwood and Trinity, Topton. The Rev. W. S. Dry, of Kutztown, another son of the congregation was the speaker at the evening service. He took for his text Gen. 7:1.

ST. PAUL'S, FLEETWOOD

IN THE spring of 1841, the religiously inclined people of Coxtown and vicinity bought two acres of land from Benjamin Hoch, for the sum of forty dollars, midway between Coxtown (Fleetwood since the coming of the railroad) and Walnuttown and commenced the erection of a union church for the use of a Lutheran and a Reformed congregation. On the 25th day of April, 1841, the corner-stone was laid in the name of God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. In said corner-stone was placed the Church

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Government (as then adopted) besides a Holy Bible, a Lutheran and Reformed catechism, etc. At these religious ceremonies the following ministers were present and officiated: Revs. Isaac Roeller and Daniel Kohler, Lutheran; and Revs. Charles G. Herman and Isaac Miese, Reformed. The same day the Church ordinances were adopted and remained unchanged until the fall of 1879, when three additional articles were formulated and adopted. The said



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, FLEETWOOD

amended ordinances were printed in pamphlet form in 1880, and remained the same until 1919, when each congregation adopted its own constitution. In the same year the "union treasury" was discontinued and each congregation elected its own treasurer and agreed to pay one-half of all expenses.

Christian A. Scheick was the contractor and builder of said church. It cost something over three thousand dollars, but the contractor claimed to have lost money.

The first regular ordained Lutheran minister was Rev. Isaac Roeller of Kutztown, and remained the pastor until the year 1860, when he desired to retire from the ministry

on account of old age. He had served the congregation from its origin until his retirement, to the full satisfaction of the entire congregation. The Rev. Benjamin E. Kramlich was chosen as his successor and served until June 1, 1900. The first elders were: John Schlegel and Solomon Borkert. The first trustees were: Henry Seidel and Reuben Scholl. The first deacons were: John Gauker, Henry Rettinger, George Scholl and Levi Boyer. The first treasurer was Reuben Scholl and served from 1841 to 1844.

In the year 1859 the pipe organ in use at present was purchased from Samuel Bohler of Reading, Pa., who was the builder, for the sum of \$800. The organ was dedicated in the summer of 1859, about the time the East Penn Railroad was being completed. The Railroad Company ran excursion trains from Reading and from Millerstown (now Macungie) as the road was not finished to Allentown. There was such an immense crowd of people from both directions of the road that several extra trains had to be run, and Fleetwood was crowded with visitors and entirely unable to accommodate the people. It was the greatest day and crowd that Fleetwood ever had before or since. The Ringgold Band of Reading furnished music. Prior to the year 1859 no musical instrument was used in the church. Gabriel Kline was the first "Foresinger", and Solomon Miller was the first organist and leader of the choir.

In the year 1880 the church was painted and papered. A new shingle roof put on, new hand rails placed at the pulpit, and a new rail and banister erected around the altar. The cost was about \$625.00. In 1887 land was bought from Jacob Rothermel, Sr., and sheds erected thereon at a cost of \$445. In 1893 two acres of land was bought from Joel Wartzluft adjoining the old church yard for the sum of \$450.00, for a cemetery, the same was then graded, laid out into lots and fenced, which when completed had cost \$1100. The said cemetery was dedicated on May 3, 1894, when the following ministers took part: Rev. Gerhard of Lancaster, Rev. Brownmiller of Reading, Pa., assisted by the regular ministers, Revs. B. E. Kramlich and M. H. Brensinger. On March 31, 1917, the cemetery was enlarged by purchasing 3 1-10 acres from Mrs. Catharine Merkel for the sum of

\$695. The same was consecrated on May 27, 1917. The Rev. J. Franklin Keller of Fogelsville preached the sermon. The Rev. Wm. H. Kline and Rev. E. H. Leinbach assisted in the service.

In 1894 heaters were bought and put in the basement of the church, one was bought from Levi K. Madeira by the St. Paul's Ladies' Aid Society and the other one from Schaeffer, Merkel & Co., by the congregation. The money was raised by collections from its members. In 1921 a pipeless heater was bought from Henry King for the sum of \$435.00.

In the year 1846 the church was remodeled. New seats were placed on the gallery and some on the first floor; the organ platform was lowered, all old windows replaced, new pulpit and brass railing erected around the altar, iron posts put under gallery, roof at each gable end extended, the window behind pulpit closed, and the inside and outside of the church painted. All of this amounted to \$1100.00. The church was rededicated December 13, 1896. Revs. F. K. Bernd and Nevin Helfrich preached the sermons, assisted by Revs. Kramlich and Brensinger.

ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL

A NUMBER of members of St. Paul's Union Church and their friends started a movement in 1883 to erect a chapel for the purpose of carrying on worship as an organized Christian body. The project culminated in the erection of a fine brick building on Franklin street which was formally dedicated in October, 1884. The edifice cost upward of \$7,000.00. The land was donated by George Scholl. The place of worship is known as St. Paul's chapel. Church services are held regularly. A flourishing Sunday School is also maintained and heartily encouraged by the members. In 1911, a wing was added at a cost of \$5200. The organization, under the direction of a board of trustees had been carried on successfully until 1921. On September 25, 1921, by a decree from the Court of Berks county, the Church Council and the Consistory of St. Paul's Union Church were given the absolute rights to all matters pertaining to St. Paul's chapel.



TRINITY CHURCH TOPTON

TRINITY, TOPTON

BETWEEN 1865 and 1868, seven persons of this borough gathered to organize a Sunday School. Their place of meeting was on the second floor of a leather store occupied by C. A. K. Grim. The Sunday School soon outgrew this room and so moved to the school building located at the corner of Weiss street and the road to the reservoir. This building now is the property of Mr. Newbold. Once more they moved for lack of space, this time into a frame school building located east of the present school building on Franklin Street. This building was then owned by the Longswamp School District. The school board complained that the members of the Sunday School were interfering with books and belongings of the school children. This complaint together with a few other grievances prompted the town to build an independent school building to be known as the "Excelsior Subscription School." This edifice was built in the fall of 1869. No school was ever held in it but was used to house the Sunday School, and later the Church. Peter Diener, one of the trustees, was the first Sunday School superintendent. James Butz donated the ground for this building at the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

corner of what is now Franklin and Cherry streets. Henry Baer was the first chorister.

At the time of organization of the Sunday School there were occasional church services held in connection with the Sunday School. On October 29, 1871, the church was organized as St. Peter's Union Church, with Rev. A. J. Herman as the Reformed pastor and Rev. B. E. Kramlich as the Lutheran pastor. They both served the first year without remuneration. On March 9, 1872, the constitution was unanimously adopted. On May 9, 1872, the corner-stone was laid and the building (erected originally as a schoolhouse) was dedicated. The speakers were Dr. N. C. Schaeffer, and Rev. Thomas Leinbach.

The first Lutheran Communion was held May 26, 1872, when 18 communed.

On November 8, 1874 the following were confirmed: Edwin W. Dotts, Jonas A. Dotts and Mathias F. Miller.

During Rev. Schenck's pastorate there was a meeting held for the purpose of organizing a Young People's Society on the evening of February 28, 1901. Meetings were held Monday nights. At a meeting held November 2, 1901, it was decided to join the district Luther League. Upon this occasion the speakers were, George Jones and A. P. Body.

A congregational meeting of the Lutheran Church was held February 14, 1912. At this time a motion was made to apply for a charter.

During January, 1911, the women of the Lutheran congregation formed a society to work to raise funds to aid the church. This organization later became the Ladies' Mite Society, their constitution being adopted January 24, 1912.

Through the efforts of the women of this society substantial sums were paid toward defraying expenses of the church. This society is still an active force in the congregation.

The date of incorporation is April 1, 1912. At this time the name changed to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. At a congregational meeting May 8th, 1912, the constitution was adopted article by article. On the same date, May 8, 1912, the congregation voted unanimously to

buy a lot at corner of Smith and Peach streets (now Home Avenue). Owing to the forethought of Mrs. C. D. Werley this was possible for she had bought it February 23, 1911.

The first Lutheran Choir was organized January 1914. The first meeting of the Lutheran Sunday School was held January 25, 1914. The attendance was 123, and the collection amounted to \$8.52.

On February 23, 1915, in the presence of over 100 people ground was broken for the new church to be erected on the northeast corner of Peach and Smith streets. The pastor of the congregation, Rev. W. H. Kline, invoked God's blessing and conducted a brief service.

The corner-stone laying was scheduled for June 13, 1915. About 400 people had gathered for the services at 2 p. m. The services were to be conducted by Rev. W. H. Kline, the local pastor; Rev. J. O. Henry, from the Tipton Orphans' Home, a former pastor; Rev. C. E. Kistler, president of the Reading Conference; and Dr. P. C. Croll, of Beardstown, Ill. Rev. Kistler had as his text Gen. 28:18-19. Rev. Kistler had just opened his discourse when a severe storm caused the people to seek shelter. In the evening the services were held in St. Peter's Church where Dr. Croll preached on the text taken from 1 Cor. 13:13. Owing to the rain on the 13th of June the laying of the corner-stone was postponed until Sunday, June 27th. Rev. Kistler preached the sermon scheduled for the previous service. Rev. J. O. Henry gave a short address, as did also Rev. A. M. Weber, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Boyertown. The ceremony of laying the corner-stone was performed by the pastor, Rev. W. H. Kline. The collection on that day amounted to \$728.63. The evening service was held in St. Peter's church at which Rev. A. C. Schenck, of Philadelphia, a former pastor, preached on the text I. Cor 3:6.

The church was dedicated, September 24, 1916. At the morning service, Rev. J. A. W. Haas, D. D., preached the sermon, based on Psalm 84. At the afternoon service Rev. S. G. Trexler, of Buffalo, N. Y., spoke and Rev. J. O. Henry, extended greetings and congratulations. Rev. R. B. Lynch, president of the Conference, extended greetings. At the evening service Rev. J. O. Schlenker, of Grimsville, preached

the sermon. A note of sadness was injected into the day, due to the fact that the Wednesday preceding the first funeral in the church was held, it being that of Martin S. Croll, who was president of the Church Council. He had taken the initiative in building the church. The building is very pretty and substantial. It is of granite, and has a modern Sunday School chapel which may be thrown into the main building for use on special occasions. It is finished in yellow pine and golden oak, and a large 2250 pound bell in the corner tower calls the people to worship. The church seats about 300 people, and with the annex or Sunday School chapel has a combined seating capacity of 700. A primary room is in the basement; also rooms for societies and social purposes. The church cost about \$18,000.

On October 16, 1916, the 46th session of the Reading Conference was held in this church.

Sermons by former pastors, anthems beautifully rendered by a visiting choir and a large attendance of parishioners at the three services, marked the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the congregation, on Sunday, November 5, 1922. The pastor was assisted during the services of the day by Revs. A. C. Schenck, J. O. Henry, and Student Mark K. Trexler, the first and only member of the church who has chosen the ministry as his life work. One of the features of the service was the music rendered by the choir of Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown, Pa., under the leadership of Prof. E. B. Kocher. The sermon at the morning service was preached by the Rev. R. B. Lynch, president of the Reading Conference. The afternoon services were featured by addresses by Rev. Henry, Student Trexler, Rev. G. B. Smith and Rev. J. B. Landis. Greetings were extended by Elton L. Angstadt of Christ (Mertz) Church, Dryville, Pa., and Ernest J. Stansfield of St. Paul's Church, Fleetwood, Pa.

The sermon at the evening service was preached by the Rev. A. C. Schenck, of Philadelphia, Pa.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



ST. DANIEL'S CHURCH NEAR ROBESONIA

ST. DANIEL'S, HEIDELBURG TOWNSHIP

THE Lutheran Congregation in Heidelberg Township, named St. Daniel's Church and locally known as "Corner Church," or "Eck Kirche," was founded about 1750. The church building is situated in the northern corner of a crossroad, about a mile northward of Robesonia.

The church received the name St. Daniel at the laying of the corner-stone of the second building in 1814. The designation "Corner" or "Eck" is said to have originated

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

not so much from the location of the building as from the fact that the corners of a number of farms center about the place. On May 30, 1751 the congregation came into possession of three adjoining tracts of land: One-half acre from John Artz, one-half acre from Michael Shower, and three-fourths acre from Abraham Lauck.

The land was received in trust for the congregation by John Beyer and Frederick Weiser, five shillings (about seventy-five cents) being paid for each tract. The deeds were acknowledged before Justice Conrad Weiser and the Declaration of Trust shows that the land was "to be for the benefit, use and behoof of the poor of the said Dutch Lutheran Congregation at Heidelberg aforesaid forever, and a place to erect a House of Religious Worship for the Use and Service of said Congregation and if occasion shall require, for a place to bury their Dead."

From 1773 to the present time nine additional purchases of land, at prices ranging from one dollar per acre to five hundred dollars per acre, have brought the total area of land to about 20 acres.

The first church was a stone building, length 40 feet, width 36 feet, height 20 feet. The corner-stone was laid in 1751 and the building was probably completed in 1754. The mason work was done by Andrew and John Dietz at about twenty cents a perch and the carpenter work including doors, pews, etc., was done by Frederick Kobel and Christian Betz for about \$105.00, nails and glue furnished by the carpenters.

The second building—walls a part of the present edifice, was built during 1814 to 1817. The corner-stone was laid May 1st 1814. In 1849 this building was remodeled at an expense of \$1342.59. Extensive repairs were also made in 1883 and the dedicatory services were held on November 25, 1883. On January 21, 1911, the congregation voted to renovate the building and build an addition of 14 feet to the east with a tower and bell, also a pulpit recess of 8 feet to the West, raising and inclining the floor, inserting a new ceiling, refurnishing and the installation of steam heat. This work was done at a cost of \$13,403.26 and the building was reconsecrated on May 26, 1912. In 1922 electric lights

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

were installed at an expense of \$700.00 which was paid by the Sunday School.

The Lutherans had entire control and use of the church until August 5, 1876, when "permission was given to a Re-



OLD ST, DANIEL'S

formed Congregation, by the St. Daniel's Lutheran Congregation of Heidelberg Township, in consideration of the sum of one dollar per annum to have a right to hold religious services in the building." The Reformed held the



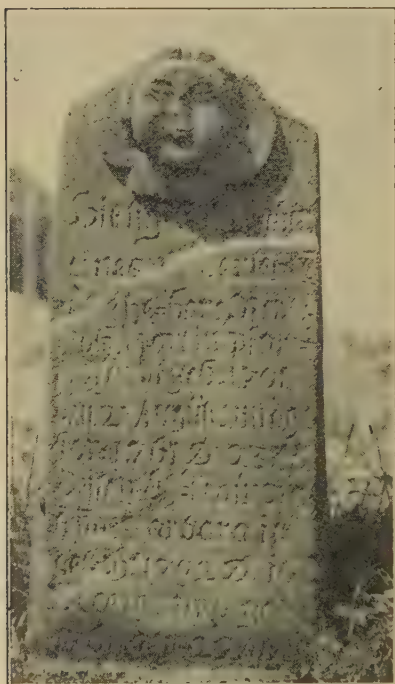
CHURCH VIEW WITH THREE CEMETERIES

first service on December 25, 1876 and continued to worship there until February 19, 1905 when, not because of any rupture of friendly relations, but owing to a desire to have

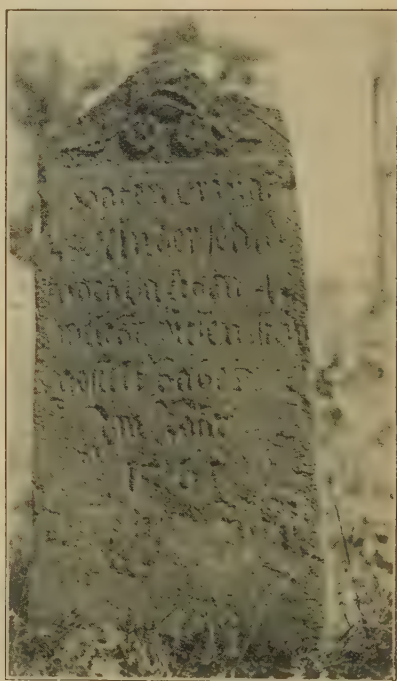
LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

a church building of their own, more modern in construction and located in a town, they moved to their newly completed building in Robesonia.

From 1750 to 1851 St. Daniel's was connected with the Tulpehocken Charge of which Christ Church, Stouchsburg, was the mother. For a few years St. Daniel's seems to have been an independent congregation and then, with the congregations served by her pastors constantly shift-



OLDEST TOMBSTONE



REVERSE SIDE

ing, there were no definite parish lines until 1887, since which time, St. Daniel's has belonged to what is known as the Womelsdorf Lutheran Parish, composed originally of Womelsdorf, St. Daniel's Host and Strausstown, the latter being dropped in 1913 and Trinity, Robesonia, added in 1917.

From a beginning of a few members, shown as sixteen male members in 1753 the congregation has increased to more than 800 of both sexes; and the dozen surnames of the earliest families have multiplied to about 15 dozen.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Some of the names appearing on the church roll since before the Revolutionary war are the following: Bechtel, Bender, Bricker, Brossman, Brown, Engel, Ernst, Fidler, Filbert, Fisher, Gerhart, Grater, Gruber, Hassler, Himmelberger, Huber, Hoover, Koch, Leininger, Lengel, Long, Machamer, Maderness, Miller, Mountz, Moyer, Palm, Pott or Putt, Schaeffer, Smith, Snyder, Strauss, Stump, Wagner, Wolf and Wenrich.

The pastors who served St. Daniel's Church are as follows: Rev. John Nicholas Kurtz, from 1750 to 1770, a period of about 20 years; Rev. Christopher Emanuel Schulze from 1771 to 1809, about 38 years; Rev. William Beates is supposed to have been the pastor from 1809 to 1811; Rev. Daniel Ulrich, from 1811 to 1853, fully 42 years; Rev. Thomas Theophilus Iaeger, from 1853 to 1864, about 10 years; Rev. Henry Seipel Miller, from July 1864 to 1865, about one-half year; Rev. Aaron Finrock, from 1864 to 1891, about 27 years; Rev. William Wilberforce Kramlich, from 1892 to 1901, about 10 years; Rev. Oscar Erwin Pflueger, from 1902 to 1913, about 10 years; Rev. Harvey Samuel Kidd, from 1914 to the present time.

Note. A complete history of the congregation, including a transcript of all records available making a volume of 562 pages of typewritten material was produced by Mr. M. A. Gruber, of Washington, D. C., and presented to the congregation in 1908. The above facts and statements are largely culled from this volume.

ST. JOHN'S, HOST

THE St. John's Lutheran Church of Host, Pa., dates its history from June 12, 1858 on which date the members of the Reformed Church, which was established at this place at least 120 years earlier, adopted the following preamble to a set of resolutions also adopted, giving the Lutheran congregation to be organized the right of worship and use of the building for the customary consideration of one dollar per annum: "Whereas the Lutherans of this community have already for some time applied for the privilege of organizing a Lutheran congregation." The reason for this application was the distance to the existing

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Lutheran congregations, the nearest of which were those at Womelsdorf, Reeds, Rehrersburg and Little Tulpehocken.

So far as known the early preaching to the Lutheran congregation was by one Joel Grim, who was an aspirant to the ministry in the Lutheran Church, and of whose actual ordination to the ministry there seems to be no record. It is known, however, that he also filled pulpits in other localities.

In the fall of 1865 the Rev. Aaron Finfrock assumed



ST. JOHN' SCHURCH, HOST

charge of the congregation and it became a part of the Womelsdorf Parish. The first recorded communion was administered by this pastor on November 18, 1865, to fifty guests. The largest number of communicants at any one time occurred in 1882 when there were 194.

The congregation lost some members to St. Paul's congregation, New Schaefferstown, which was organized in 1885, but its experience has been that of most rural churches with very little increase or decrease in membership. The confirmed membership now is 250.

The following pastors served for the time designated: Joel Grim, and others unknown, between 1858-1865; Rev. Aaron Finfrock from 1865 to 1891, about 26 years; Rev.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

William Wilberforce Kramlich from 1892 to 1901, about 10 years; Rev. Oscar Erwin Pflueger from 1902 to 1913, about 10 years; Rev. Harvey Samuel Kidd from 1914 to the present time.

Until 1865 this congregation was served independently by pastors not having a regular charge, but since that time it has belonged to the Womelsdorf Lutheran Parish. Rev. E. S. Leinbach is pastor of the Reformed congregation.

TRINITY, ROBESONIA

LUTHERANS residing in Robesonia, members of St. Daniel's and others, met on July 24, 1904 and adopted a set of resolutions organizing themselves into a body under the control and supervision of St. Daniel's Church, the object being to nurture and develop interests of the Lutheran Church in this growing town. The pastor of St. Daniel's was to preach in Robesonia Union Chapel every alternate Sunday evening and the affairs of the organization were to be managed by an executive board under the Church Council of the mother-church.

The Reading Conference of the Lutheran Church met in the Robesonia Union Chapel on October 2-3, 1905 and on October 31, 1905, the Willing Workers, an association of women, was organized and afterwards chartered for the purpose of fostering "the interests of Lutheranism in Robesonia."

On July 13, 1907, St. Daniel's Church, by resolution, assumed control and responsibility over these interests. On October 31, 1905, the Willing Workers purchased a lot of ground at the corner of Centre and Church streets for the purpose of, at some future time, erecting thereon a Lutheran Church. Lutheran Hall, a frame building about 30 feet by 50 feet in size, was built on this lot in the rear and was first opened and used on January 27, 1909. This hall has served as a meeting place and building for general use of the Willing Workers, who have been successful in raising sufficient money to pay for the lot and purchase additional ground adjoining, besides doing charitable work of a general nature.

When St. Daniel's Congregation on January 21, 1911

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

voted on the question of making extensive alterations, additions and improvements, the principal factor in dividing the vote was the question as to whether this should be done, or whether a new church should be built on the lot owned by the Willing Workers in Robesonia. A majority voted for rebuilding while most of those residing in Robesonia



TRINITY CHURCH, ROBESONIA

avored the other plan. This did not unite but rather divide the membership in Robesonia.

On June 17, 1917, by action of St. Daniel's, the pastor was instructed to discontinue services in Robesonia after July 13, 1917. The action was taken not in a spirit of hostility, but because the Church Council felt that the experi-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

ment of having the chapel services was a failure and that the members interested would best be served if they had an organization of their own. Therefore at the close of the services on the above date those interested were invited to remain. After making preliminary arrangements for the continuance of services, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Keiser, members of Christ Church, Stouchsburg, expressed the sentiment of those present by making a motion that a new congregation be organized. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Frank Bair of Palm Church, Palmyra and by Prof. E. Willis Minnich of the North Heidelberg Church. Mrs. Bair had been a moving Spirit in the Willing Workers and Prof. Minnich had been the superintendent of a flourishing Sunday School, conducted in the chapel. There were some fifty charter members and the name Trinity was chosen.

The congregation asked for the continued use of the chapel, owned by the Robesonia Iron Company, and after some preliminaries purchased the entire property for the sum of \$2500.00.

On December 9, 1917 a new corner-stone was laid and after extensive renovation the building was re-dedicated on July 21, 1918.

This building was erected in 1869 by Ferguson, White & Co., owners of the Robesonia furnace, for the free use of religious bodies. Presbyterians and German Baptists most frequently worshiped in it after its dedication on May 1, 1870.

On account of the few adherents of either of these denominations, residing in Robesonia, services were soon abandoned. The Reformed and Lutheran denominations used the building for services for some years, prior to the erection of the Reformed Church in 1904. Trinity congregation upon application was received into the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and united with the Womelsdorf Parish of the Reading Conference.

The present membership of the congregation is 105. Rev. H. S. Kidd who organized the congregation, has been the only pastor.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



ZION CHURCH, WOMELSDORF

ZION, WOMELSDORF

THIS church was founded in 1792. The Lutheran and Reformed of this community united in building a stone church with a brick floor the corner-stone of which was laid on June 30, 1792. The Building Committee consisted of Heinrich Hirsch, Jacob Seltzer and John Benne-thum. The time of dedication may have been the following year, or "several years elapsed before the building was completed" may be correct as claimed by Montgomery. On February 1, 1805 an act was passed appointing Nicholas Eckard, Heinrich Hirsch, George Ege, Jr., Conrad Stouch, John Keiser, John Weiser and David Graeff commissioners to raise \$1500.00 by means of a lottery to defray the expense of erecting Zion's Church and two school houses at Womelsdorf.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

On May 26, 1867, at a special meeting to consider the remodeling of the old church, Mr. Peter Althouse, Mr. William S. Filbert, Mr. David Laucks and Mr. Samuel Filbert were appointed to solicit subscriptions and to report in two weeks. On June 9 this committee reported favorable progress and the congregations voted unanimously to rebuild. An addition providing ample room for a hallway and stair



OLD UNION CHURCH

way was added to the end of the building facing the east. On this addition a tall spire was erected and in it a bell placed probably taken from the belfry which was removed. The corner-stone was laid on July 7, 1867. The basement was dedicated on October 6, 1867 and the church proper on

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

June 15, 1868. The building committee consisted of Peter Althouse, Samuel Filbert and John Moyer. It is not known how much was spent, but 20 years later the debt still amounted to \$1025.00.

On February 3, 1858 the congregations were incorporated under the name "The Lutheran and German Reformed Congregation of Zion Church of Womelsdorf in the County of Berks." On April 5, 1887 By-laws were adopted changing the name to "Zion's Lutheran and Reformed Church."

In 1874 the custom of ringing the bell every day at 11.00 o'clock, to notify all within hearing of the time of day, was abandoned. In 1884 the custom of submitting each pastor to an annual election was abandoned.

On February 20, 1893, looking toward the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the church in fall, a special meeting was held. The purchase of a new organ was authorized and interior alterations were planned. The trustees, C. P. Kreitzer, Jno. E. Dundore and William A. Hoffa, were appointed a building and organ committee, while Isaac Bechtel, William S. Filbert, Adam M. Lengel and William Moore were appointed to solicit subscriptions. About \$3000.00 was spent. This expense coming at a time when the whole country was suffering from a panic proved to be quite a burden. By systematic giving in earthen jugs placed in each family and by providing a large jug, conspicuously placed and labeled "Open to all," as well as by similar methods the debt was reduced to \$1600.00 by 1896. In 1902 the Sunday School room was renovated at a cost of \$700.00 and reopened on December 14 of that year. The use of the church building was given to each congregation on alternate Sundays until 1914, when an agreement was reached by which each congregation could hold services either morning or evening on each Sunday.

The congregations had been operating under separate charters for some years before 1909, when the Treasury was divided and only common expenses and common interests in the building were acted upon at the joint annual meetings held on January 1st of each year.

At the annual meeting of the Lutheran Congregation

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

held on April 5, 1915 the pastor was authorized to solicit subscriptions for the erection of a separate church building, and to report as soon as \$5000.00 were subscribed.

On May 20, 1915 the Congregation by vote of 65 for and 1 against decided to build a new church on the lot previously purchased at the corner of Third and High streets. Similar action was taken by the Reformed on August 15, 1915.

On December 12, 1915 ground was broken after the singing of a hymn and the offering of a prayer. At about the place where the altar now stands a stone slab in the pavement was turned over and the new pick was driven into the frozen ground by the pastor in



WOMELSDORF PARISH PARSONAGE

the name of the Triune God. Excavations were begun immediately. The teams of the Bethany Orphans' Home removed nearly all of the 1600 loads of earth while 350 pounds of dynamite were used in blasting the 1500 tons of rock. The extra amount of work required on account of the rocky formation delayed the laying of the first stone in the foundation until June 1st, 1916.

The Building Committee elected by the congregation on May 20, 1915, consisted of Mr. Roy Valentine, Dr. C. W. Brossman, Major Robert B. Filbert, Adam M. Lengel and the pastor, Rev. H. S. Kidd as chairman. After considering

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

plans and bids the committee found that it would be too expensive to award a contract for the building of a church according to the plans desired. In view of the signs of approaching war Robert B. Filbert felt constrained to enter the service of the army, and did so on June 1, 1916. The committee then decided to act as builder and contractor. Rev. Kidd was made superintendent of construction, Dr. Brossman was elected treasurer and time-keeper, Mr. Valentine served faithfully in all emergencies requiring business judgment, building experience, taste in design or execution, financing, supply of help, materials, tools and money. Mr. E. Z. Scholl of Reading, a native of Womelsdorf, was chosen architect. His ability, special interest, patience with the committee and generosity did much to make a success of the project. Mr. Frank S. Haak and many others assisted in many ways.

The corner-stone was laid October 8, 1916 with chief address by Rev. T. E. Schmauk, D. D., LL. D., of Lebanon. Offering \$500.00. The first service was held in the Sunday School room on January 20, 1918.

The church was dedicated on June 16, 1918 with services during the week following and closing on the following Sunday. Dr. Schmauk, of Lebanon, was again present with more than 200 of his members on Wednesday evening. Others of prominence present during the dedication services were Rev. H. A. Weller, D. D., President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, Drs. C. M. Jacobs and J. C. Kuntzman, of Philadelphia.

The cost of the church complete without a pipe organ or bell was \$35,000. The bell was immediately provided by Mr. Roy Valentine at a cost of \$1400.

A goal of \$10,000 for dedication week was passed the first day when the total receipts, cash and subscriptions amounted to \$10,178.25.

A debt of \$18,000 at the time of dedication has since been reduced to \$11,000.00.

On July 1, 1923, in connection with the celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Tulpehocken settlement, a large pipe organ was dedicated "In memory of those who lived, worshiped and died in this community since 1723."

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Dr. J. A. W. Haas, President of Muhlenberg College, preached the sermon and represented the Lutheran denomination in a mass meeting at Womelsdorf on the afternoon of the above date.

The founder and organizer was Rev. Christopher Emanuel Schulze, a native of Germany, pastor of the Tulpehocken Parish for 38 years President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, (oldest synod in Lutheran Church) for six years. During his pastorate at Womelsdorf he was also the Senior of the Ministerium, an honor held by only 7 men in a history of 175 years. In 1776 he was married to Eva E., the daughter of Rev. Dr. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. He was the father of Governor Schulze. Rev. Schulze served from 1792 to the time of his death, March 9, 1809.

Rev. John Andrew Melchior Schulze, afterwards Governor of Pennsylvania, resided at Womelsdorf in 1796 and as a licensed preacher was pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, under his father's oversight until 1802.

Rev. William Baetis, born in Philadelphia, became pastor in 1810 and served until 1816. He was actively identified as an officer with the early development of Foreign Missions in the Lutheran Church. He was honored by the synod with the office of Senior.

Rev. Benjamin German, a native of Lehigh County, became pastor in 1817 and served until 1821.

Rev. Daniel Ulrich, a native of Lebanon County, was elected pastor of the Tulpehocken Parish after the death of Rev. Schulze in 1811. The Womelsdorf congregation refused to join in the call to Rev. Ulrich on the grounds of an alleged breach of promise to marry. In 1821, however, they elected him as pastor and he served them faithfully until 1851.

Rev. Thomas T. Jaeger, a native of Berks County, was pastor from 1851 to 1855.

Rev. Jefferson M. Deitzler, a native of Schuylkill county served the congregation rather irregularly between 1855 and 1858, when he organized another Lutheran Congregation in Womelsdorf and used the former Presbyterian church on Second Street as a place of worship.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Rev. Lewis G. Eggers, a native of Germany, became pastor in 1858 and served until 1865.

Rev. Aaron Finrock, a native of Maryland, 1865-1891.

Rev. William W. Kramlich, a native of Berks County, 1892-1901.

Rev. Oscar E. Pflueger, a native of Northampton County, 1902-1913.

Rev. Harvey S. Kidd, a native of Northampton County, 1914—to present time.

ATONEMENT, WYOMISSING

AT THE 29th convention of the Reading Conference held in Elias Church, Newmanstown, Pa., on May 4 and 5, 1908, initial steps toward organizing a Lutheran Church in Wyomissing, Pa., were taken. On several previous occasions the attention of conference had been called to this growing suburb west of Reading, Pa., and at this time the Mission Committee of conference was directed to acquire a suitable lot in Wyomissing.

At the next convention of conference held in St. Paul's Church, Fleetwood, on October 6, 1908, the Mission Committee reported that Edward S. Wertz of Wyomissing had offered to them a very desirable lot (80 by 150 feet) on Wyomissing Boulevard near the Borough Hall for the purchase price of \$1750. A few months later Mr. Wertz being anxious to hasten the beginning of this work offered the lot to conference for the sum of \$1000. This offer was accepted at a special meeting of conference held in Trinity Lutheran Church, Reading, Pa., on December 11, 1908. In order to raise this sum of money all the congregations of conference were asked to take a special offering. As a result of this the sum of \$471.11 was received. This amount was later increased to \$550. This was not sufficient to pay for the lots and consequently the formal transfer was never made to conference. However, after an organization had been effected, the congregation was permitted to receive possession by paying the balance still due the owner.

In July and August of 1909 A. P. Body made a canvass of Wyomissing to secure the names of Lutheran residents

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

and especially of those who would be interested in organizing a congregation. This was very thoroughly done and resulted in arrangements being made to begin services. The first service was conducted on September 12, 1909 at the home of Henry M. Stetler by the Rev. F. K. Bernd, president of conference. Thirty-one persons were present. The following Sunday, September 19, a Sunday School was



CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT, WYOMISSING

organized with 22 members. Within two weeks this number had increased to 35.

On January 7, 1910 an application for a charter for a corporation to be known as "The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement at Wyomissing, Pa.," was signed and filed. The following were the signers: Henry M. Stet-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

ler, John F. McNabb, Amos R. Kurtz, Henry A. Stetler, H. Franklin Brossman, Melchior Zwicky, Clarence H. Dittes, H. S. Miller, Jesse L. Stetler, Marx Reimer, E. Y. Johnson, John A. Watson, Harvey P. Kline, August W. Rodruan, Jacob Rodruan, Martin Luther, Max Rosacker. The fol-



THE TENT CHURCH

lowing signed a supplemental list and also became charter members of the congregation: Lydia Rodruan, Ella R. Henry, Mary E. Stetler, Anna E. Kurtz, L. R. Henry, Alberta L. Henry, Mrs. Joseph Ohlinger, Mrs. Herbert Christman, Mrs. John Reigner, Mrs. Charles Dittes, and Mrs. H.



ANOTHER VIEW OF TENT

F. Brossman. This charter was granted on February 7, 1910.

A meeting was held for the purpose of duly organizing the congregation at the office of Stetler and Mengel on March 17, 1910. A Constitution and By-Laws in harmony

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

with those recommended by the General Council were adopted. This meeting was presided over by the Rev. W. O. Laub. Officers were elected at this time as follows: Trustees, Marx Reimer, H. M. Stetler, H. F. Brossman; Deacons, Clarence Dittes, John McNabb, Amos Kurtz, Herbert Roeder, Henry A. Stetler, Max Rosacker. The congregation was received into the Ministerium of Pennsylvania at the annual meeting in 1910.

Conference placed this congregation in a parish with Blandon and on September 13, 1910 a joint call was extended to the Rev. William K. Fisher to become the first pastor. The call was accepted and on September 26, 1910, Pastor Fisher assumed charge of the work. Under his leadership the congregation made commendable progress notwithstanding many unfavorable conditions. Services were held during this period in the Borough Hall. Rev. Fisher continued as pastor until September 1, 1913. At this time the congregation had a membership of 85 and the Sunday School an enrollment of more than 100.

The leaving of Pastor Fisher was followed by a two year vacancy which proved most detrimental to the young congregation. Being without a regular pastor so long, the members lost interest in the work and the organization almost disbanded. The congregation maintained a nominal existence only; the Sunday School was alive but very weak.

After repeated efforts the Reading Conference finally induced the Mission Board to send Field Missionary Chas. K. Fegley, to the rescue of this work. He arrived in Wyomissing on November 22, 1915 and began the work of reorganization. He found a most difficult task. Many of the former members had gone back to their old Churches, while many others could no longer be interested in any Church. However after considerable preliminary work the Sunday School was reorganized on May 7, 1916, and on August 6, 1916 the congregation was reorganized with 19 members. These were Mr. and Mrs. H. Franklin Brossman, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Busch, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence H. Dittes, Mrs. Jacob Rodruan, Mrs. Cleaven Steffy, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Fleck, Lydia Rodruan, Mrs. Emma Fess-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY.

ler, Anna Rodruan, Minnie Fessler, Dorothy Rodruan, Mrs. Henry M. Stetler, Mrs. Ellen C. Fegley. By the spring of 1918 the development of the congregation had been such that it was felt that the time had come when a permanent pastor should be secured. Accordingly, at a congregational meeting held on April 14, 1918, a call was extended to John L. Deaton, a student in the Senior class of the Mt. Airy Seminary. This call was accepted and Pastor Deaton assumed charge of the work on June 1, 1918.

With the coming of a permanent pastor new interest and zeal were manifested by the congregation and a new era of growth began. In the early part of 1920 the development had been such that more ample facilities in the nature of a church home became imperatively necessary. To fill this need eight lots adjoining the original lot were purchased, thus giving a church site with 240 feet front on Wyomissing Boulevard. Preliminary plans were also made for a church building.

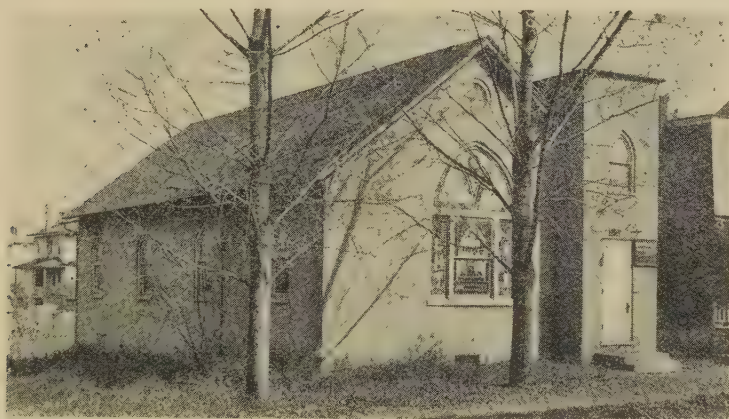
It was decided to proceed with building operations and on July 24, 1920 ground was broken for a new church. On June 12, 1921, the corner-stone was laid with impressive services.

While the church was in process of construction it became necessary for the congregation to make its church home in a tent for four months. It was the desire of the Council to continue holding alternate morning and evening services and a joint Sunday School in Bausman Memorial Reformed Church, but having been notified that beginning with July 1, 1921 the Reformed Church would conduct both morning and evening services this became impossible. The Council therefore erected a tent on a vacant lot on Belmont avenue and called it "The Tabernacle of the Wilderness." Here all services were held until it was possible to move in the basement of the new church.

In the spring of 1922 the church was completed and on May 7 was dedicated. This building is of Gothic architecture, built of foxcroft stone and trimmed with special cast stone. The auditorium has a normal seating capacity of 300 and the Sunday School rooms in the basement a

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seating capacity of 450. It was built and furnished at a cost of \$75,000, which sum was raised by special contributions from members and friends and also by a loan.



CALVARY, LAURELDALE (ROSEDALE)

CALVARY, LAURELDALE (ROSEDALE)

CALVARY Lutheran Church was organized for the purpose of providing a Lutheran Church for that section of Muhlenberg township, generally known as Rose-dale and Belmont. This community lies along the state highway leading from Reading to Kutztown. It extends north and south from South Temple to Hyde Park, and east of the Kutztown pike to Laurel Hill and west toward the Pottsville pike. This territory has an approximate population of two thousand people and up until the time of the organization of Calvary Lutheran Church had no organized Church upon its territory. There was a Union Sunday School Chapel on Elizabeth avenue, Rose-dale, in which community Sunday School services were held and also occasional preaching services by various denominations.

The need of this large community for regular church services had impressed itself upon the Reading Conference at various periods and in the latter part of 1915 steps were taken to supply this need. At the suggestion and by the

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assistance of Rev. Chas. E. Kistler, president of the Reading Conference and pastor of Alsace Lutheran Church, the nearest Lutheran congregation, the Rev. Chas. K. Fegley, the Field Missionary who was working in Wyomissing, held the first Lutheran service in the Union Sunday School Chapel on December 19, 1915. On March 5, 1916, Rev. Fegley began the first of a series of monthly services. He also began a canvass of the community in September 1916 but no organization was effected. However he continued to hold services intermittently until his removal in June, 1918. His successor in Wyomissing, the Rev. John L. Deaton, continued these services.

In the fall of 1920 the development had been such that the Mission Committee of Conference decided to secure Field Missionary U. S. G. Bertolet to cooperate with Rev. J. L. Deaton in making a canvass of the field with the purpose of effecting an organization. This canvass was completed in January 1921 and the results seemed to warrant the attempt to organize a congregation. After several preliminary meetings a congregation was organized on February 18, 1921 with an initial membership of 100 members. The constitution recommended by the United Lutheran Church for congregations was adopted. The name of "Calvary Lutheran Church of Muhlenberg Township, Berks Co., Pa." was chosen. The following officers were elected: Deacons, Frank R. Manderbach, Morris Walborn, Solomon I. Schwoyer, W. H. Lutz, H. E. Katzenmoyer, Erasmus Ernst, A. C. Goheen, A. Ernst, J. K. Schlaybach. Three of these were chosen as trustees as follows: Frank R. Manderbach, Solomon I. Schwoyer and Morris Walborn.

On August 10, 1921, an application for a charter was filed, and on September 6, 1921 this was granted. This application was signed by John L. Deaton, W. H. Lutz, Harry E. Katzenmoyer, Solomon I. Schwoyer, Frank R. Manderbach, Morris Walborn, Erasmus Ernst, Edwin Althouse, Henry Schabener, S. K. Schlegel, J. K. Schlaybach, Thomas H. Jones, A. Charles Goheen, Robert F. Beck, J. L. Shalters, and W. W. Williams.

Rev. John L. Deaton pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Atonement, Wyomissing, Pa., was asked to continue as

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a supply pastor until a permanent arrangement might be made by the Reading Conference. This temporary arrangement continued until the convention of conference held in Trinity Church, Wernersville, Pa., on September 26 and 27, 1921. At this time Calvary was placed in a parish with Atonement of Wyomissing. This parish extended a joint call to Pastor J. L. Deaton on November 16, 1921. This call was accepted and Rev. J. L. Deaton thus became the first regular pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church.

During this period all services were held in the Union Sunday School Chapel but the progress of the congregation was such that it was deemed wise to take steps toward securing a permanent church home. Accordingly at the annual congregational meeting held January 3, 1922 the trustees were instructed to purchase lots at the corner of Elizabeth avenue and Freemont street, with a frontage of 135 feet and depth of 125 feet, for the sum of \$1850. The formal transfer of these lots was made on April 1, 1922. The sum of \$1150, which had been raised by special contributions, was paid at this time, and a mortgage on the lots was given to cover the balance. This mortgage was cancelled on April 1, 1923.

JERUSALEM, ALBANY TOWNSHIP

 WING to the privations endured by the early settlers in this vicinity, Muhlenberg invariably called it "Allemaengel", in his Halle Reports. The name has clung to the church ever since. Because the outside woodwork including the roof had been painted red over a hundred years ago, it was also known as the "Red Church".

Jerusalem Church stands quite near the boundary line between Albany and Lynn, both of which became townships in 1735. About this time a number of families from New Hanover settled here. Soon after Muhlenberg's arrival in America, they persuaded him to visit the place. He was deeply moved by their desire to build a church and their utter inability to do so. In 1746, he induced his father-in-law, Conrad Weiser, to buy a 50 acre plot of ground for them.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

While they were erecting a log building, the Moravian emissaries from Bethlehem appeared on the scene and proclaimed themselves the genuine Lutherans. This was an echo of the Tulpehocken Confusion, and the controversy that raged between the three parties that sprang up was quite bitter. Operations were suspended before a roof was placed on the structure. The Moravians thinking they had gained the advantage undertook to finish the edifice "with the understanding that it should be a brotherly church".



JERUSALEM CHURCH, ALLEMAENGEL

But as Muhlenberg still held the title to the ground he prevented this movement. In 1770, after the confusion had altogether subsided he deeded the ground to Philip Stambach,, Jos. Gortner, Valentine Brobst, Matthias Brobst and George Kistler. This deed is recorded in the Berks county court house. At this time the pastor, Rev. Daniel Schumacher, and a considerable number of the members withdrew and built a church about half a mile to the south, near Wessnersville. It was called New Allemaengel or White Church. The latter name still clings to it.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

The earliest baptismal records of the Jerusalem church contain names of the children of John Baily, Frank Baily, Casper Longenberger, Peter Driess, Michael Brobst, Frederick Reichelsderfer, John Wesner and George Kistler. In 1756, the following class was confirmed: George Kistler, Jr., George Kunkel, Conrad Billman, Fr. Billig, Maria Fosselman.

The present stone edifice was consecrated, May 24, 1814, during the pastorate of Rev. John Knoske. Rev. Henry Heine also took part in the services. Since then the church has been frequently renovated. In 1881 the high pulpit and sounding board were removed and the entire interior was altered. Probably the greatest event in the history of the congregation was the centennial celebration of Muhlenberg's donation of the church property. The Rev. Samuel Kistler Brobst, the most distinguished son of the congregation, preached the sermon. His reading of Muhlenberg's account of the early struggles of the congregation was heard with the keenest interest by the large gathering which included many persons who had been confirmed here, some of whom came from great distances. Dr. Schmauk declared that it was Samuel Kistler Brobst, whose ancestors heard Muhlenberg plead for institutions in the church to educate its ministry, in whom this seed bore fruitage. He was instrumental in establishing Muhlenberg College and the Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Thus Allemaengel became one of the main channels through which Muhlenberg's influence was brought down to the present and made secure for all time.

The pastors were: H. M. Muhlenberg, J. N. Kurtz, Tobias Wagner, 1745-55; Daniel Schumacher, 1755-70; John A. Frederici and a number of other supplies, 1770-8; Daniel Lehman, 1778-1810; John Knoske, 1811-23; Revs. Doring, Wartman, Walz, 1828-31; Isaac Roeller, 1831-57; O. Leopold, 1857-60; S. S. Kline, 1860-67; L. Zuber, D. D. Trexler, 1867-9; H. S. Fegley, 1869-1905; A. O. Ebert, 1905—.

This congregation, barely exceeding 100 members, has given 8 of its sons to the gospel ministry, viz.: Samuel Kistler Brobst, Reuben Brobst Kistler, Alfred W. Kistler, William U. Kistler, Charles E. Kistler, Edwin L. Kistler, D.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Elmer Fetherolf and Jonas O. Henry. A large number of its members have entered the medical and other professions.

The oldest tombstones on the cemetery, close to the church, bear the dates 1760 and 1762. The new part of the burial place contains an unusually large number of fine monuments.

Jerusalem is one of the three Ministerium churches on Berks County territory not belonging to the Reading Conference. Since most of its members come from Lehigh County, it rightfully belongs to the Allentown Conference.

ST. JOHN'S, MT. AETNA

WHEN or how the movement was begun which resulted in the organization of St. John's Church, Mt. Aetna, is not known. The first record of this church is dated January 17, 1846. This record is a list of male persons, of whom thirty-nine are designated as "Reformed" and seventeen as "Lutheran". This seems to be the list of persons who banded themselves together for the purpose of organizing a congregation and building a church. On the first day of June, 1846 the corner-stone of the first church building was laid. During the summer of that year the church was completed and the same was dedicated on the twenty-fourth day of October, 1846. By action of those interested it was decided that a meeting should be held on the third Saturday in December, 1846, for the purpose of organizing a congregation. This meeting resulted in the organization of a Union Church. The charter adopted and granted by the court of Berks county in 1851 begins with this paragraph: "Hereby are founded the congregations under the name, style and title of the Evangelical Lutheran and Evangelical Reformed Church of Wolebertown". The name of the town was later changed to Mt. Aetna.

The Lutheran congregation was evidently without a regular pastor until 1850. Rev. Jefferson Deitzler was then elected and began his pastorate in this congregation on January 5, 1851, with a membership of possibly forty persons. Rev. Deitzler continued as pastor until 1865. The

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

reason for the ending of this pastorate at this time was the withdrawal of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania from the General Synod. The congregation was adhering to the Ministerium while Rev. Deitzler continued to belong to the General Synod.



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, MT. AETNA

The second pastor was Rev. Youria Grafe. This pastorate extended from 1865 to 1867. In 1868 Rev. J. F. J. Schantz, D. D., became the pastor. Under his pastorate the congregation became a more cohesive body and united with the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

In 1883 the church was rebuilt and enlarged. Following the death of Dr. Schantz in January, 1907, Rev. A. E.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Youse, the present pastor, was elected and began his pastorate on July 1, 1907.

Since 1868 this congregation has been a part of the Myerstown parish.. It is the only congregation in Berks county belonging to the Lancaster Conference.

The Sunday School, originally union, has been separated into a Lutheran Sunday School and a Reformed Sunday School. The separation was due to the usual question of literature. The Lutheran Sunday School meets bi-weekly on the Sunday when Lutheran services are held. The membership of the congregation has always been small due to the constant removal of the young people for lack of employment. The membership is also widely scattered through Berks and Lebanon counties.

History of Lutheran Churches, Formerly of the General Synod

LOCATED within the bounds of the Reading Conference in Berks County. In the days of sharp lines of demarcation, if not of opposition, within the Lutheran fold, when churches were commonly known as "Old" or "New" Lutheran, meaning thereby members of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania or of the East Pennsylvania Synod, the former an integral part of the General Council and the latter of the General Synod, there were at least three or four charges or parts of them, located within the bounds of the Reading Conference which did not belong to it, but were parts of the Lebanon Conference of the East Pennsylvania Synod. It is desired that the present "History" shall give an account of all the Lutheran Churches which have ever existed in Berks County. Hence this sketch of congregations not members as yet of the Reading Conference but yet integral parts of the United Lutheran Church since the consummation of the merger in 1918.

The oldest of these is that of St. Matthew's, Reading.

ST. MATTHEW'S, FIFTH AND ELM STREETS, READING

ST MATTHEW'S Lutheran Church, of Reading, is the first of many daughters of Trinity Lutheran Church. The separation was brought about in 1842 through the desire of a number of members for services in English in order to prevent their children from going to churches of other denominations where English services were held exclusively. Rev. Jacob Miller, grandfather of Judge G. A. Endlich, was pastor of Trinity Church and would not grant English services. An organization was then effected and services held in the Old State House, at Fifth and Penn streets.

Rev. J. L. Schock was the first pastor; the first Council meeting was held in March, 1842, and the officers were: Rev. Schock, President; Dr. Diller Luther, Secretary; and Henry Haas, Treasurer.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

The men most active in this movement, to whom St. Matthew's Church is largely indebted for what she is to-day



ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

were Dr. Diller Luther, John Hepler, Sr., Frederick Fox, Henry Haas, Peter Filbert, Henry Fry, Adam Rightmyer, Dr. S. S. Birch, Jacob Sallade, Peter Shanahan, Joseph



PASTORS OF ST. MATTHEW'S, 1866-1915

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Moyer, William Ziegler, Nicholas Mason, John German, Jeremiah Hagenman, Marks B. Scull, George Frees, Jesse Orner, Paul Ammon, John Hetrich and Samuel Focht. The first communion was held in September, 1842, when 17 communicants presented themselves; at the same time a considerable number were confirmed. The first infant baptism occurred in 1842, Susan Yeager being the subject; the first marriage ceremony of which there is now any record was performed in 1843, and Levi Moser and Catharine Myers were the contracting parties.



OLD ST. MATTHEW'S

In spite of all difficulties and hindrances the congregation grew rapidly. In 1843 an appeal was made to the other churches in Eastern Pennsylvania for aid in building a church. Rev. Schock was sent out as a collector and during his absence Rev. John Kohler acted as his substitute. The church was begun in May, 1844, erected at Franklin and Pearl streets under the direction of the following building committee: Dr. Diller Luther, John Hepler, Joseph Mayers and Peter Filbert, and was dedicated in December of the same year.

No incident worthy of mention occurred until 1849, when Rev. Schock resigned and was succeeded by Rev. J. A. Brown, D. D., LL. D. During Rev. Brown's pastorate the membership was considerably increased. Among those prominent in this second period of the Church's history were Major S. E. Ancona, Dr. Ulrich, Jacob S. Livingood, Esq., Messrs. Weida, Lindemuth, Craig, Lehman, Edward Scull and John C. Hepler, and Mrs. Esther G. Otto, familiarly known as Mother Otto; Mrs. Anna E. Craig, Mrs. Mary Saylor and Mrs. Lucy J. Livingood.

Rev. Brown resigned in 1859 and was succeeded by Rev. M. Valentine, D. D., LL. D., during whose term the church was repaired and who served until 1866; Rev. M. W. Hamma, D. D., 1866-1869; Rev. Samuel Domer, D. D., 1869-1872; Rev. J. M. Anspach, D. D., 1872-1877; Rev. T. C. Billheimer, D. D., 1877-1893; Rev. R. W. Hufford, D. D., 1893-1901; Rev. Luther S. Black, 1902-1908; Rev. George W. Nicely, 1909-1913; Rev. Norman S. Wolf, 1913-1915; Rev. Charles R. Myers, 1915-1919; Rev. W. C. Dunlap, D. D., 1921—.

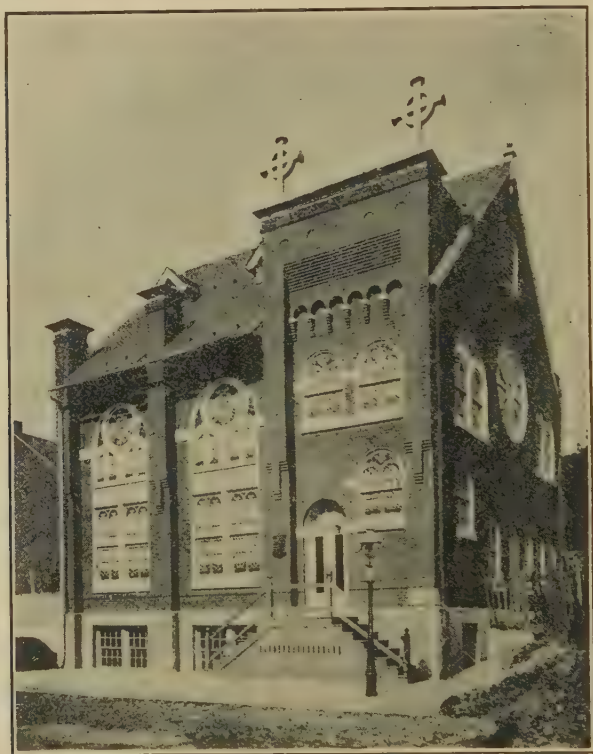
Like many active and flourishing city churches, St. Matthew's also has her mission children. At least twice in its life have segments of its membership combined to found mission congregations in other parts of the city, or its suburbs. The first of these is that of St. Peter's.

ST. PETER'S, TWELFTH AND WINDSOR STREETS, READING

THE organization was fromed May 5, 1907 with 22 members in the second story of a bakery then located at 923 Douglass street. In the fall of 1908 the congregation was admitted into the East Pennsylvania Synod. In the spring of the year 1909 the congregation was incorporated and received its charter. Some time after this the southeast corner, lot 40 x 105 feet and 2½ story brick building on Twelfth and Windsor streets was purchased for \$2500.00. Specifications having been presented, it was decided at once to erect a Chapel on the rear end of the lot fronting Twelfth street. On June 19, 1910, interesting ceremonies marked the breaking of ground for the new edifice in the presence

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

of a large concourse of people. Rev. Henry C. Shingle, the first pastor, had charge of the service. On August 14, 1910, the corner-stone was laid with impressive ceremonies by the pastor and a large congregation assembled. A handsome edifice being completed was dedicated to the Service of Almighty God in the presence of a large audience Sunday, April 23, 1911. According to a report made at the Dedication by the Treasurer, the expenditures for lot, building, and furniture were \$10,524.85. Paid on same \$3042.85.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Rev. Henry C. Shingle resigned and relinquished his duties as pastor of St. Peter's on August 13, 1911.

The congregation having been supplied for nearly a year by professors and students from Schuylkill Seminary and other ministers from our own denomination, Rev. John

A. Richter was called unanimously December 3, 1911, as the pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church. The call was accepted by him and he began his work February 4, 1912. A growing increase was manifested both in the church services and in the Sabbath School, a primary room was furnished and a large balcony constructed and other improvements made in the interior of the Church, Daniel F. Hiester, foreman and Adam E. Hafer, assistant foreman of the work. Rev. John A. Richter resigned and relinquished his duties as pastor of St. Peter's Church in May, 1916. The congregation gave Rev. William B. Smith, Ph. D. a unanimous call on May 14, 1916, which he at once accepted serving as pastor since June 4, 1916. The church debt has been considerably reduced during his pastorate.

The next congregations organized from constituents which came from St. Matthews are those of the Glenside and Stony Creek Charge.

CHRIST, GLENSIDE, READING

ALUTHERAN Mission Sunday School was organized in the Northwest Glenside district of Reading on Sunday afternoon, November 22, 1914, under the fostering care of Rev. N. S. Wolf, pastor, and some of the workers of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. The services were held in the district schoolhouse. The idea of organizing a congregation developed during the summer of 1915. The community was thoroughly canvassed during August and on the fifth of September, 1915, at the call of Rev. Wolf, a public service was held. Dr. S. D. Daugherty, Mission Superintendent, preached a sermon on John 15:16. Rev. J. A. Richter of St. Peter's read the scripture lesson and Rev. Charles R. Myers of St. Matthew's offered the prayer.

Immediately after the service a congregation was organized with thirty-seven members. The constitution for congregations, as recommended by the General Synod was adopted. The name "Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church" was adopted and a Church Council was elected by the votes of the members. The Rev. N. S. Wolf was elected the pas-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

tor. It was also decided that a lot should be purchased and that a suitable church building should be immediately erected. The pastor, Walter Loose, John Ernst and Aaron Dundore were elected to serve as a building committee.



CHRIST CHURCH, GLENSIDE

The erection of the church was begun in September and the building was ready for worship by Christmas, 1915. The church was dedicated on Sunday, January 2, 1916. Rev. C. P. Wiles, D. D., preached the sermon. Because of a saving due to volunteer labor and other valuable donations the total cost of building was less than four thousand dollars. A mortgaged debt of twelve hundred dollars has since been reduced to four hundred dollars.

Rev. N. S. Wolf served until 1917 when he was succeeded by Rev. G. W. Schwartz who served until 1919. The present pastor, Rev. O. O. Leidich, has served since 1920.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

BETHANY, STONY CREEK MILLS

IN THE spring of 1895, R. J. Calm, a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of Reading organized a small Sunday School in Seiz's school house near Stony Creek Mills. Within five years the Sunday School outgrew the schoolhouse quarters and built a beautiful substantial stone chapel in which the school has grown and flourished.

In 1914 a general desire for regular church services expressed itself in an appeal to Rev. N. S. Wolf of St. Mat-



BETHANY CHURCH, STONY CREEK MILLS

thew's who canvassed the community, spending several weeks in a house to house visitation for the purpose of securing members of the congregation to be organized.

On November 29, 1914, the congregation was organized with 107 members. The first Church Council consisted of R. J. Calm, president; Irvin C. Ibach, secretary; Charles D. Erb, treasurer; Allen M. Snyder, Frank B. Hill, Benjamin F. Lorah, Charles W. Fisher and William L. Murray. Rev.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

J. A. Richter of St. Peter's conducted services for some months.

In January of 1915, failing health caused Rev. Wolf to resign as pastor of St. Matthew's and a call was extended to him from Bethany asking that he should move to Stony Creek Mills for a much needed rest and serve the congregation with but one service a Sunday. Under his pastorate the membership increased to 150. In 1917 having regained his health he accepted a call to Bloomsburg, Pa.

Rev. George Swartz then became the pastor and served until 1919. The present pastor, Rev. O. O. Leidich began his pastorate in 1920.

THE CHURCHES AT WOMELSDORF AND STRAUSSTOWN

Both of these churches were founded by Rev. J. M. Dietzler in 1861 while he was pastor of the Zion's Lutheran Church at Womelsdorf, the Blue Mountain Church at Strausstown and other churches of the Ministerium.

It was during the period of Revivalism within the Lutheran Church when not a few of the old churches were aroused and separated into two factions which clashed. Usually the pastor advocating these so-called "new measures" and his adherents left amid considerable agitation, either voluntarily or peremptorily and organized new congregations in the shadow of the old. This was the case in Womelsdorf and Strausstown. Rev. Dietzler took with him in each instance such a nucleus of substantial followers and adherents as justified them in a new organization. In Womelsdorf the Fidlers, Moores, Fishers, Sells, Valentines, Schoeners, Spangs, Schonours, Stouts, and others rallied around their old pastor and took advantage of the proffer of the use of the Presbyterian Church edifice, the congregation of which had about died out. A union Sunday School was maintained here. Located in the heart of the town this Sunday School with capable leaders flourished beyond the strength of the communicant membership. No separate church was ever built. The following pastors have served it: Rev. J. M. Dietzler, 1861-1865; Rev. Uriel Graves, 1865-1866; supplied by conference, 1866-1868; Rev. George

J. Martz, 1868-1876; Rev. W. I. Cutter, supply, 1876-1878; Rev. E. Lenhart, 1878-1879; Rev. P. C. Croll, 1879-1882; Rev. I. B. Crist, 1883-1885. Successful conferences and Sunday School conventions were held here. From this time on the church was without regular pastors, gradually deteriorated and finally entirely disbanded. The membership, dividing between the other congregations of town.

ST. PAUL'S, STRAUSSTOWN

THE same year (1861) that saw the organization of the new Lutheran Church at Womelsdorf and the same causes led also to the organization of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Strausstown. A small following came out with the pastor, Rev. J. M. Dietzler as former Lutheran pastor of the Zion Union Lutheran and Reformed Church, or often known as the Blue Mountain Church and organized themselves into this new body of Lutherans.

On July 15, 1861, Messrs John Strauss, Jonathan G. Reber, Michael Miller, John Boltz and Dr. W. J. Schoener were appointed as a building committee to erect a new church edifice. Within a week they had purchased a lot for the church and burial purposes and building operations were begun. The corner-stone of a frame church was laid in August. The church was finished by November and dedicated. Dr. A. C. Medekind, Rev. E. S. Henry and Rev. P. Willard assisted the pastor in these services. The following winter a great revival was held when the church membership increased to seventy. The same pastors served here that served at Womelsdorf, it becoming a part of the Lyons Charge, at least looking for supplies from thence for a decade of years after Womelsdorf's flock disbanded. The old loyal members dying away and few new members being added, it died a natural death in time and the few remaining members returned to the old Blue Mountain Congregation.

THE LYONS' CHARGE

THE third General Synod Charge within the bounds of Conference in order of time is the Lyons' Charge. This was founded by Rev. A. D. Croll in 1868, and consisted of several congregations in Lehigh and Berks counties. Rev. Croll having for five years previous, served the large Ministerium Charge in the southeastern portion of Berks county, consisting of six congregations, Lobachsville, Delongs', St. Peter's, Hereford, Longswamp and Hill Churches, was now conscientiously moved to change pastoral relations from the Ministerium of Pennsylvania to the East Pennsylvania Synod. His biographer, Rev. Dr. J. A. Singmaster of Gettysburg Theological Seminary says of him as pastor of this charge "He exercised a wonderful spiritual influence through his large charge in awakening, converting, and edifying souls. For five years he continued the faithful and popular pastor of this field. Calls to more inviting and prominent churches did not induce him to leave his important work. He had, however, serious difficulties to contend with. None of the congregations held prayer meetings, in which he so ardently believed. His methods began to arouse opposition on the part of some of his people as well as from his clerical brethren."

Finding his synodical relations thus growing gradually less congenial, and to enable him to carry out unhindered his convictions on essence and methods of a genuine spiritual church life, he resigned his charge, gathered about him his awakened and enthusiastic followers to the number of about two hundred members, organized them into five small congregations in the territory of the old parish and united with the East Pennsylvania Synod. By 1869 new churches had been erected at Lyons, Macungie, Upper Milford, Lehigh county, Pleasantville and he was also elected as pastor of the Mohrsville Lutheran flock of the Union Church erected in 1865. Of these the Pleasantville congregation has latterly disbanded or died out, while the Lyons and Mohrsville churches are still active and fairly progressive.



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, LYONS

ST. PAUL'S, LYONS

THIS congregation was organized by Rev. A. D. Croll in 1868, out of adherents who followed him from the Delong congregation at Bowers. The corner-stone of the substantial two-story brick church was laid June 1, 1868, and the dedication was held that same fall. From this time on Rev. Croll's earnest and faithful ministry continued until the spring of 1876, during which years "a period of

great religious activity" characterized the work. During these years hundreds were converted and spiritually promoted in wide circles. Contributions grew phenomenally for that region. Besides supporting their pastor from the start, without missionary aid, and building new churches, the offerings for the benevolent objects for the Synod, from this charge amounted to hundreds of dollars per annum. "Every family had an altar for prayer and daily praise and a contribution box, called the Lord's Treasury Box where weekly offerings were made to the Lord as He had prospered them the preceding week." Is it any wonder that with such a standard of church life established, with the faithful presentation of the spiritual use of the Holy Sacraments maintained that the congregation grew in numbers and the knowledge and activities of the flock in the grace and labors of the Divine Vineyard increased, that conversion of sinners followed and the dedication of many young men for the Holy Ministry came about so that in the entire history of the charge almost to the present time, there has rarely been a time when it had not at least one son preparing for the ministry? During the eight years of Rev. Croll's ministry more than a dozen young men were in their training for the holy office, or else had already entered upon its blessed labors. St. Paul's Church alone has furnished the following sons to the ministry: W. R. Wieand, G. H. Leeser, Elias Hamsher, Elias A. Best, P. C. Croll, Morris F. Good, William J. Good, W. G. Gaby, N. J. Stirewalt, and possibly others not known or recalled to the writer. We know the pastor influenced largely, the Rev. I. W. Bobst, now of Philadelphia, and Rev. G. W. Fritch of blessed memory and late of Amsterdam, N. Y., both of whom often attended Rev. Croll's preaching services, while students at the Keystone State Normal School at Kutztown, the latter of whom was confirmed by Rev. Croll, while still pastor at the Longswamp Church of the Ministerium.

Rev. Croll's death in 1876 was a severe blow to his congregations, which had everywhere increased and were everywhere active instead of merely adherent or indifferent and idle. The protracted illness of the first pastor, long vacancies, wide separation of the churches, usually short pas-

torates following and thus frequent and radical changes resultant, have all worked together, with the general decline in the last few decades of rural Church life to reduce also this once energetic church.

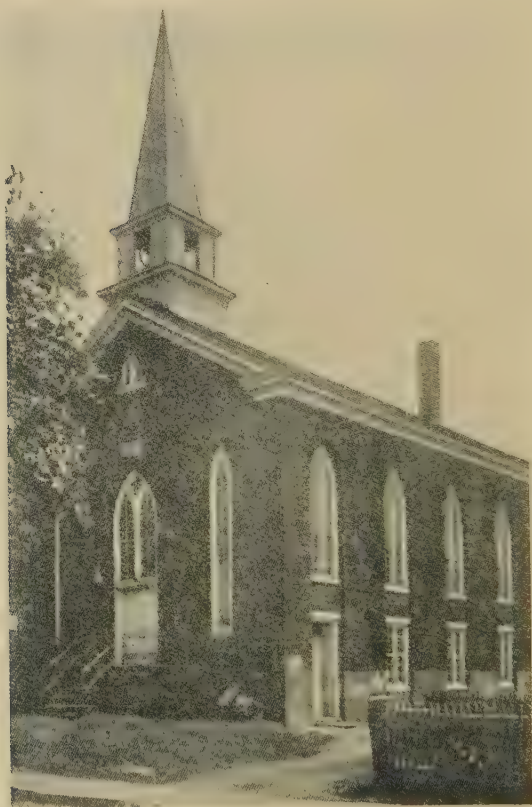
Rev. Croll was succeeded by Rev. W. I. Cutter as supply until July, 1877, when he was elected as pastor but only served until 1878, when Rev. E. Daron succeeded him, who served until 1880, who was succeeded by Rev. D. E. Reed for less than a year. Rev. W. H. Lewars succeeded him in 1881 and resigned in 1882. In November, 1882, Rev. J. A. Singmaster became pastor and served for three years, when Rev. G. W. Fritsch succeeded him. He served the charge six years after which it was temporarily supplied by Rev. G. J. Martz of Lebanon, and then served for another term of five or six years by Rev. Morris F. Good. He was succeeded by a succession of elderly pastors namely: Rev. G. C. H. Hasskarl, Rev. J. M. Dietzler, Rev. A. B. Miller, Rev. B. S. Dise, who did good work in their day in holding the church together and keeping them alive, yet though they labored hard not much progress at upbuilding could be made. The material for upbuilding could not be gathered, the spirit of the earlier enthusiasm and devotion seems to be hard to kindle in our day. With numbers lacking, burdens of upkeep heavy, a spirit of discouragement is slowly creeping over this once flourishing field. Yet for several years Rev. M. S. Miller, a young man, served them and he seems to have succeeded in fanning the embers into a flame again, especially among the young people. He resigned in 1922 and was succeeded by Rev. J. I. Hummer who took charge in the early summer of 1923.

ST. JOHN'S, PLEASANTVILLE

THE history of this congregation is much like that of the one at Lyons. It was organized by the same founder and brought into life by the same methods as the one at Lyons. It has had the same series of pastors and supplies, the only difference is that it was always weaker, and due to many causes became defunct about fifteen years ago, since which time its building has been sold

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

and is reported to have been demolished. Yet for years it was a source of spiritual blessing to this village and the neighborhood of the Oley valley.



ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, MOHRSVILLE

ST. TIMOTHY'S, MOHRSVILLE

THIS Union Congregation was founded in 1864 by resident and near-by members of the surrounding Lutheran and Reformed churches at Gernants, Shoemakersville and Bellemans. Messrs. John Snyder, Isaac H. Moore, Seth Zimmerman, and Isaac K. Becker formed the building committee for the new church edifice, which is located in the heart of the old village of Mohrsville. A two

story brick church 36 feet by 48 feet with galleries. The main audience room was ready for dedication by May 7, 1865. The Reformed had meanwhile elected Rev. Aaron Leinbach as their pastor and the Lutherans Rev. B. E. Kramlich of Kutztown. The latter resigned June, 1867, and Rev. A. D. Croll was elected as his successor, being yet a member of the mother Synod of Pennsylvania. He announced his inability to accept the call in view of his intentions to change his synodical relations, unless the congregation would hold another election with this knowledge. He was again unanimously elected and gave the congregation most acceptable service until the time of his death. Seldom has a pastor such devoted love and cordial co-work as this flock gave their faithful pastor during all these years. Here as elsewhere his ministry was richly blessed in all the temporal and spiritual advancements of the flock, and in the consecration of several young men to the Gospel Ministry. After Rev. Croll's death, Rev. J. A. Singmaster, then pastor at Schuylkill Haven supplied the church for about two years. Rev. E. Lenhart served it one year from July, 1878 to 1879, when he resigned and Rev. P. C. Croll became the pastor, as it was now a part of the Womelsdorf Parish. His pastorate extended to December, 1882, completing a catechetical class during the following winter and occasionally supplying the pulpit as he was at this time Rev. Singmaster's successor at Schuylkill Haven. In September, 1883, Rev. I. B. Crist took charge and labored as pastor until June 1, 1885. Then by a new arrangement this congregation was again added to the Lyons charge and from that day to this has been served by the Lyons pastors.

It has had about the same experience that the Lyons' church has passed through, of the frequent changes and occasional long vacancies. It has, however, always had much of the true "salt" and been very zealous in the work of the Lord. As a little congregation, it has no mean showing. Its building is remodeled and in good repair, and its organizations are active. The laity is sincere and devoted, trained and willing to work.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, BERNVILLE

ST. THOMAS', BERNVILLE

THE occasion for the formation of this congregation was the question of rebuilding and separation as mentioned in the History of Friedens' Church by Rev. Miller. In consequence of this division that portion of the Lutheran congregation which united with the Reformed in the building of the new church was obliged to look elsewhere than the Ministerium of Pennsylvania for their pastoral supply. Consequently in 1897 they appealed to the East Pennsylvania Synod for assistance, when Rev. William J. Gaby a recent graduate of the Gettysburg Theological Seminary was engaged to supply. He served them a number of years when he was called to Dayton, Ohio. The pastor of the Schaefferstown parish (Lebanon county), Rev. Morris F. Good, was elected pastor in 1899 and served for a

number of years, until 1908. Rev. R. W. Hufford supplied temporarily (for about a year) when they became united with the Lyons charge and from that date were supplied by the regular pastors of the Lyons charge.

Pastors, 1701—1923

- 1701. Andrew Rudman—Molatton.
- 1702-19. Andrew Sandel—Molatton.
- 1720-23. Samuel Hazzelius—First resident pastor at Molatton.
- 1723-30. John Lindman—Molatton.
- 1727. Gerhard Henkel—Reed's, later at Hill and Manatawny.
- 1729. Bernhard von Dieren—Baptized children in Tulpehocken.
- 1729. John Casper Stoever, Jr.—Little Tulpehocken, later at Plow and Allegheny.
- 1730-33. John Eneberg—Molatton.
- 1733-45. Gabriel Falk—Molatton, built church in 1736-7.
- 1737-42. John Geo. Schmidt—Bernville Little Tulpehocken, Colebrookdale.
- 1738-9. John Dylander—Supplied Molatton in the absence of Falk.
- 1743-6. Tobias Wagner—Tulpehocken. During his pastorate Christ Church was built and Muhlenberg married to Anna Maria Weiser. Rev. Wagner also preached at Alsace, Moselem, Epler's, Mertz's.
- 1746. Muhlenberg induced Conrad Weiser to purchase a 50-acre plot for the Allemaengel congregation in Albany.
- 1746-62. J. N. Kurtz, D. D.—Tulpehocken, Northkill, St. Daniel's, Atolheo (Rehrersburg). Assisted by his brother, Wm. Kurtz, 1761-3.
- 1752. Lucas Rauss—Began record at Hill church.
- 1753. H. B. Wordman—Trinity, Reading.
- 1754. Daniel Schumacher—Trinity, Reading; 1755-70. Allemaengel, Maxatawny, Windsor, Alsace, Schwartzwald, Greenwich, Oley, Hill; 1770. Built New Allemaengel (White Church).
- 1757-8. John C. Hartwig (founder of first Theological School in America)—Trinity, Reading.
- 1758-63. John Schwerdtfeger—Allegheny, Plow.
- 1759-63. Bernhard M. Hausihl—Trinity, Reading.
- 1760-78. J. H. Schaum—Kutztown, Moselem, Rockland, Ontelaunee.
- 1764-71. John A. Krug—Trinity, Reading, and connected congregations.
- 1765-85. John L. Voigt—Hill.
- 1769-72. Peter Mishler—Hamburg, Zion's, St. Paul's, first pastor of St. Michael's.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

- 1769-1826. Freedrick A. Miller—St. Paul's; 1777-80. Allemaengel; St. Michael's at intervals.
1770. Ernest Muhlenberg—Frequently preached in Churches of Berks.
1770. John A. Frederici—Allemaengel
- 1770-4. Frederick A. Muhlenberg (first speaker of U. S. Congress)—Assistant pastor at Tulpehocken; 1776. Supply at Trinity, Reading, and Hill Church.
- 1771-4. Peter Niemeyer—Trinity, Reading.
- 1771-1809. Christopher Em. Schultze (Muhlenberg's son-in-law)—Christ, Zion, Rehlersburg, St. Daniel's, Womelsdorf, Bernville, Little Tulpehocken, Schaefferstown. Assisted by his son, John Andrew Schultze, 1796-1802.
1774. Philip Grotz—Trinity, Reading, Schwatzwald, Alsace.
- 1775-7. Heinrich Moeller—Trinity, Reading, and vicinity; 1790-5, Allegheny.
- 1778-9. Adolph von Gerresheim—Amityville.
- 1778-80. Daniel Lehman—Trinity, Reading, and again from 1797 to 1801; 1778-1810. Allemaengel; in 1793, according to his own statement, he was pastor at Moselem, Rockland, Kutztown, Windsor, Hamburg, Bern, two congregations in Albany, and Greenwich. He also preached at Hill.
1780. George Botler—Allegheny.
- 1780-2. John M. Schmitt—Hill.
- 1780-98. F. T. Illing—Plow, Gibraltar.
- 1781-83. John D. Schroeder—Allegheny.
- 1782-96. Charles F. Wildbahn—Trinity, Reading. During his pastorate present edifice was built; 1798-01, Spies, Rockland, Amityville.
1785. Christian Streit (first native Lutheran Minister)—Hill, Amityville.
1785. Theodore Melscheimer—Allegheny Plow.
- 1789-91. John F. Weinland—Hill, Amityville, also 1796-99.
- 1791-2. John C. Dill—Hill.
1793. Peter Bentz—Belleman's, Allegheny.
- 1794-1804. John Obenhausen—Grimsville, Wessnersville.
- 1796-7. Adam N. Markard—Trinity, Reading.
- 1798-1813. John Plitt—Allegheny, Plow.
- 1798-1808. F. W. Geisenhainer—Hill.
1803. Daniel G. Schaeffer—Zion, Perry Twp.
1803. Wm. H. Scriba—Trinity, Reading.
- 1803-28. Henry A. Muhlenberg (U. S. Ambassador to Austria)—Trinity, Reading, Alsace, Sinking Spring, Schwartzwald, Spies.
- 1805-6. Henry A. Geisenhainer—Amityville.
- 1808-14. John P. Hecht—Amityville.
- 1809-11. George Riemensnyder—Bernville.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

- 1809-29. Jacob Miller, D. D.—Boyertown, Hill; 1829-50, Trinity, Reading, Sinking Spring, Alsace, Schwartzwald, Spies.
- 1810-14. Henry Heine—Allemaengel.
- 1810-15. William Beates—Womelsdorf.
- 1811-23. John Knoske—Allemaengel, Moselem; 1821-49, he served from two to six congregations in Berks, including Rockland, Kutztown, etc.
- 1811-51. Daniel Ulrich—Christ, Reed's, Rehrersburg, St. Daniel's, Newmanstown, Bernville, Little Tulpehocken.
- 1814-20. Ernst Braunsius—Amityville, Zion (Perry).
1817. Frederick Engel—Hamburg and six other congregations.
- 1817-25. Peter Filbert (first mayor of Reading)—Allegheny, Plow.
- 1818-21. Benjamin German—Womelsdorf; 1821-37, New Jerusalem.
- 1820-54. Conrad Miller—Amityville, Longswamp, Hill, Oley, Moselem, Huff's.
- 1823-28. Geo. C. Strein—Hamburg, Zion, New Bethel, Gernant's, Belleman's.
- 1825-34. John W. Richards, D. D.—Allegheny, Plow.
- 1825-75. G. F. J. Jaeger—for longer or shorter periods, Wessnersville, Hamburg, St. Peter's (Richmond), Zion (Perry), Dunkel's, St. Paul's (Windsor), New Bethel (Albany), Grims-ville, Lenhartsville.
- 1828-31. Ludwig Walz. Hamburg, Allemaengel, St. Paul's, Zion, Epler's.
- 1830-61. Isaac Roeller—Moselem, Mertztown, Fleetwood, Longswamp, Kutztown, Allemaengel, Huff's, Mertz.
- 1833-51. George Minnig—Bernville, Mertztown, Fleetwood, Longler's, Gernant's.
- 1834-38. C. F. Welden, D. D.—Allegheny, Plow.
- 1838-42. Charles P. Miller—Allegheny, Plow.
- 1839-53. Daniel Kohler—at various intervals, Oley, Lobachsville, Friedensburg, Bern, Kutztown, Pricetown.
- 1841-3. Charles A. Griebler—New Jerusalem, Pricetown.
- 1842-5. Mark Harpel—Oley, Friedensburg.
- 1842-9. James L. Schock, D. D.—St. Matthew's Reading.
- 1842-50. F. A. M. Keller—English pastor of Trinity, Reading, Sinking Spring, Alsace, Schwartzwald, Spies; 1850-64, founded St. James, Reading, also served Plow, Geigertown, Kissinger.
- 1844-7. Peter Z. Oberfeld—Longswamp.
- 1844-56. John C. Schmidt—at various periods, New Jerusalem, St. Michael's, Little Tulpehocken, Kissinger, Sinking Spring, Rehrersburg Union, Millersburg.
- 1845-47. A. T. Geisenhainer—Oley, Friedensburg, Hamburg.
- 1845-49. Jeremiah Harpel—Allegheny, Plow, Bernville.
- 1848-72. Geo. F. Miller (principal of Hill School)—Amityville, Oley, Friedensburg.

L U T H E R A N S I N B E R K S C O U N T Y

- 1849-59. James A. Brown, D. D., LL. D., (father of J. Hay Brown of Pennsylvania Supreme Court)—St. Matthew's, Reading.
1850. Joseph R. Focht—Allegheny, Geigertown, Bernville.
- 1850-2. T. T. Iaeger—Rehrersburg Union, Allegheny, Plow; 1852-65, Womelsdorf, Rehrersburg, Millersburg, Sinking Spring, North Heidelberg, Bern, Reed's, St. Daniel's, Belleman's, Shoemakersville, St. Michael's; 1870-88, Oley, Spies, Bern, Shalter's, Friedensburg, Zion (Perry).
- 1850-54. Reuben Wagner—Alsace, Gouglersville, Spies, Hinnerschitz; 1854-61, Schwartzwald, Allegheny, Epler's, Gernant's, Gibraltar.
- 1850-65. J. M. Deitzler—brief periods at Womelsdorf, Strausstown.
1851. Joel Grim—Lobachsville, Pricetown.
1852. J. Haschold—Hinnerschitz, etc.
- 1852-7. Nathan Jeager—Boyertown, Hill.
- 1852-66. G. A. Hinterleitner, D. D.—Trinity (Kutztown), Friedensburg, Lobachsville, Oley, Dunkel's.
- 1852-67. Lewis G. Eggers—Christ Reed's, Rehrersburg, Newmans-town, Millbach, Womelsdorf from 1858.
- 1854-7. John N. Hoffman—Trinity, Reading.
- 1856-8. Charles Reese—Bernville, Little Tulpehocken, Millersburg, Rehrersburg Union.
- 1857-8. F. J. F. Schantz, D. D.—Trinity, Reading; 1867-1907, Mt. Aetna.
- 1857-9. Ferdinand Berkemeyer—Longswamp.
- 1858-61. J. H. Eberman—Hamburg Shoemakersville.
- 1858-64. Henry Wendt—Boyertown Hill.
- 1858-66. Hugo G. Grahm, D. D.—Bernville, Little Tulpehocken, North Heidelberg, Rehrersburg Union, Millersburg, Strausstown.
- 1858-67. Samuel S. Kline—Hamburg, Allemaengel.
- 1859-1900. B. E. Kramlich (for 23 years president of K. S. N. S. Board of Trustees)—Maxatawny, Fleetwood, Mertz's, Mertz-town, organized St. Peter's, Topton.
- 1859-1903. B. D. Zweig—Assistant to F. A. M. Keller until 1864; Gernant's; 1867, organized Blandon and Leesport; 1860-7, Plow, Gouglersville; 1864, Sinking Spring, Belleman's, Epler's; 1867-1900, Yocum's, St. Michael's, 1860-1903, Hinnerschitz, Schwartzwald.
- 1859-62. E. M. Sell—Longswamp, Bowers, Lobachsville.
- 1859-61. M. Valentine, D. D., LL. D., (President of Gettysburg Seminary)—St. Matthew's, Reading.
- 1860-1917. J. J. Kuendig, D. D., (Editor of the "Pilger" 14 years)—St. John's, Reading.
- 1861-5. Cyrus Rightmyer—Trinity, Reading, Pa.
- 1863-8. Alfred D. Croll—Bowers, Lobachsville, Hill, Longswamp, Huff's, St. Peter's, Mohrsville.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

1864. Matthias Richards, D. D., (Professor of English at Muhlenberg College)—Supply pastor of St. James and Trinity, Rdg.
1864. Henry S. Miller (in the ministry 64 years)—a short time pastor at Geigertown, Plow, St. Daniel's.
- 1864-66. Aaron Finfrook—Geigertown, Kissinger, Bern; 1866-91, St. Daniel's, Reed's, Strausstown, Host, Womelsdorf.
- 1864-7. F. C. Lampe—St. James, Reading.
1865. A. H. Groh—Boyertown.
- 1865-91. Leonhard Groh, D. D.,—Boyertown.
- 1865-7. F. T. Hoover (Author of "Enemies in the Rear")—Gibraltar, Plow.
- 1865-96. Jacob Fry, D. D., LL. D. (Professor of Homiletics, Mt. Airy Seminary)—Trinity, Reading.
- 1867-8. Thomas Steck—Bernville.
- 1867-73. F. J. Wicklein—Becker's St. Peter's, Alsace.
- 1867-81. B. M. Schmucker D. D., (leading liturgist)—St. James.
- 1867-83. Geo. F. Spieker, D. D., LL. D., (Professor of Church History, Mt. Airy Sem.)—Trinity, Kutztown, Moselem, Price-town.
- 1867-1907. F. J. F. Schantz, D. D.—Mt. Aetna.
- 1868-72. Samuel Domer, D. D.—St. Matthew's Reading.
- 1868-73. Simon R. Boyer—Huff's, Longswamp, Bowers.
- 1868-1903. D. K. Humbert—1868-72, Plow, Geigertown, Gibraltar, Allegheny, Gouglersville; 1872-89, Hill Lobachsville; 1872-1903, Bowers, Longswamp, Huff's, New Jerusalem.
- 1868-1914. D. D. Trexler—Bernville, until 1876; Little Tulpehocken, until 1878; North Heidelberg, until 1882; began at Shartlesville in 1874, and in Lenhartsville, 1880; served Rehrersburg Union and Millersburg during his entire ministry.
- 1869-21. F. K. Huntzinger, D. D.—St. Luke's, Reading; 1869-81, Kissinger's; 1870-6, St. Paul's, Windsor; 1873-97, Alsace; 1874-97. Becker's St. Peter's.
- 1872-77. John M. Anspach, D. D.—St. Matthew's, Reading.
- 1872-80. Charles Koerner, D. D.—Amityville.
- 1873-1909. Z. H. Gable—Gibraltar, Geigertown, Plow, Allegheny, Gouglersville, Birdsboro.
- 1874-96. B. S. Smoll—Grimsville, Dunkel's, Wessnersville, New Bethel (Albany); 1875-80, St. Paul's (Windsor).
- 1874-1909. Achilles Long—Stouchsburg, Rehrersburg, Millbach, Newmanstown, Little Tulpehocken, Schaefferstown.
1875. William Wackernagel D. D., LL. D., (Pub. "Reminiscences of the Holy Land")—Supplied St. John's, Reading.
- 1876—Wm. H. Myers, (Pub. "Book of Travel Through Europe")—Grace, Reading.
- 1877-94. T. C. Billheimer, D. D. (Prof. Theol. Sem. Gettysburg)—St. Matthew's, Reading.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

- 1877-1913. J. J. Cressman—St. John's, Kutztown; until 1900, Bernville, North Heidelberg.
- 1879-82. P. C. Croll—Womelsdorf and vicinity.
- 1880-3. C. K. Drumheller, M. D.—Hamburg Parish.
- 1881-97. U. P. Heilman (First Supt. O. H. Tipton)—Amityville, Friedensburg, Pricetown.
- 1881-1909. M. C. Horine, D. D.—St. James, Reading.
- 1884-90. Wm. A. Miller—Trinity, Kutztown.
- 1884-96. Oscar D. Miller—Hamburg, St. Paul's Zion's Shoemakersville.
- 1885-7. Theophilus Ander—Assistant St. John's, Reading.
- 1885-90. Lewis J. Bickel—Hope, Peace, Faith, Reading.
- 1886—E. S. Brownmiller, D. D.—Reed's; from 1889, St. Mark's, Reading, Oley, Spies, Kissinger's, Shalter's until 1909, Bern until 1917.
- 1886-1915. J. J. Kline, Ph. D.—Bechtelsville.
1889. H. W. Warmkessel—Hope, Hill, Lobachsville; Faith, Peace, until 1896.
1890. Franklin F. Fry, D. D.—Acting pastor of Trinity, Reading.
- 1891-3. C. C. Boyer, Ph. D., (Author of "Concrete Psychology")—Boyertown.
- 1891-1901. S. L. Harkey, D. D., (Author of "Art in Church")—Trinity, Kutztown.
- 1892-1901. Wm. W. Kramlich—Womelsdorf, St. Daniel's, Host, Strausstown.
- 1893-1901. R. W. Hufford, D. D.—St. Matthew's; 1914-19, Shillington, Oakbrook.
- 1893—A. M. Weber—Boyertown.
- 1895-7. George Drach, D. D.—Assistant, Trinity, Reading.
- 1895-1900. Reinhold G. Bielinski—Assistant, St. John's, Reading.
- 1896-1913. Oscar S. Scheirer—Grimsville, Dunkel's, Wessnersville, New Bethel (Albany).
- 1897-1901. L. D. Lazarus—Peace, Faith, Reading.
- 1897-1904. W. A. Snyder, D. D.—West Reading, Wernersville, Yocum's.
- 1897-1904. Wm. U. Kistler—Amityville, Friedensburg, Pricetown.
- 1897-1910. H. C. Kline—Hamburg, Zion, St. Paul's.
- 1896-1911. E. T. Horn, D. D., LL. D., (Author of "The Christian Year")—Trinity, Reading.
- 1898—Chas. E. Kistler—Alsace; 1901-2, Bernville; 1903-8, Blandon.
- 1899—M. H. Stettler—St. Paul's, Reading; Mohnton until 1909.
- 1900—G. B. Hancher, Ph. D., (Principal K. S. N. S.)—Supplied Grace, Reading.
- 1900-2. A. C. Schenck—Fleetwood, Tipton, Mertz.
- 1900-7. J. H. Raker, D. D.—Supt. O. H. Tipton.
- 1900-21. F. K. Bernd—Mertztown, Maxatawny, Becker's St. Peter's.
- 1901-21. Geo. S. Kressley, Litt. D.—Assisted Dr. Huntzinger.

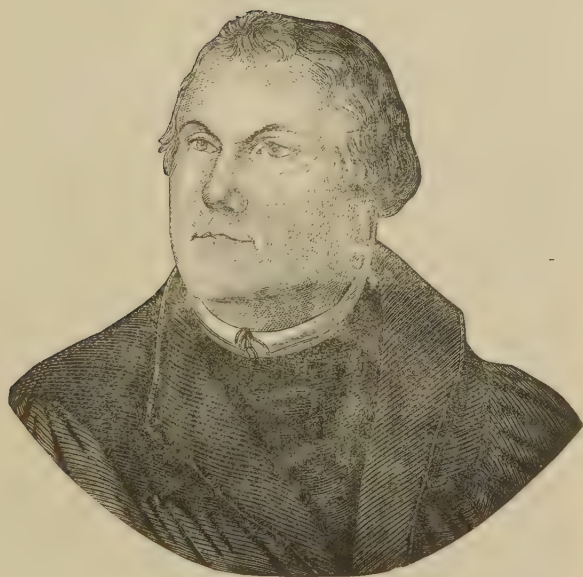
LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

- 1901-11. D. G. Gerberich—St. Michael's, Belleman's, Shoemakersville, Bernville.
- 1902-9. J. O. Henry—Fleetwood, Topton, Mertz; since 1909 Supt. of Orphans' Home, Topton.
- 1902-18. J. F. Snyder—Faith, Peace.
- 1902—Philip Kirchner—Assistant at St. John's; since 1916, Pastor.
- 1902—E. P. Pfatteicher, D. D.—Trinity, Kutztown; 1918—Trinity, Reading.
- 1903-4. J. W. Early—Supply at Bower's, Huff's, Longswamp, New Jerusalem.
- 1903-6. H. L. Straub—Bernville, North Heidelberg.
- 1903-10. F. F. Buermeyer, D. D., Shillington, Oakbrook.
- 1903—R. B. Lynch—Trinity, Kutztown, Moselem.
- 1904-9. A. W. Lindenmuth—Amityville, Friedensburg, Pricetown.
- 1904-13. O. E. Pflueger—Womelsdorf, Strausstown, St. Daniel's, Host.
- 1904-14. G. S. Seaman—Leesport, Epler's, Gernant's, Hinnerschitz.
- 1904—Wm. F. Bond—Longswamp, New Jerusalem, Bowers, Huff's.
- 1904—Wm. O. Laub—West Reading, Schwartzwald; Yocum's, until 1923.
- 1904—J. W. Lazarus—Sinking Spring, Wernersville.
- 1907—A. E. Youse, Mt. Aetna.
- 1909-10. H. A. Kunkel—Mohnton.
- 1900-12. J. H. Neiman—Shillington.
- 1909-15. H. W. Fitting—Amityville, Friedensburg, Pricetown.
- 1909-22. M. L. Zweizig, D. D.—St. James, Reading.
- 1910-22. G. D. Druckenmiller, Hamburg.
- 1910—W. S. Dry—1910-21, Stouchsburg, Rehrersburg, Millbach, New-manstown; until 1912, Little Tulpehocken and Schaeffers-town; 1921, Maxatawny, Mertztown, Becker's St. Peter's.
- 1910—W. F. Deibert—Birdsboro, Geigertown; until 1915, Gibraltar.
- 1910—W. H. Kline—Topton, Fleetwood, Mertz.
- 1910—Chas. G. Heffner—Mohnton, Gougliersville, Alleghenyville; Plow, until 1920.
- 1911—W. K. Fisher—1911-13, Wyomissing, Shalter's, Blandon; 1913-Shoemakersville, St. Paul's, Zion, Lenhartsville.
- 1911-13. J. C. Seegers, D. D., Trinity, Reading. (Prof. Theol. Sem., Phila.)
- 1912-16. C. P. Harry (Author of "Protest and Progress")—Holy Spirit, Reading.
- 1912—L. R. Miller—St. Michael's, Belleman's, Bernville, North Heidelberg.
- 1913—M. L. Brownmiller—Assistant in St. Mark's Parish.
- 1914-17. N. R. Melhorn, D. D. (Editor of The Lutheran)—Trinity, Reading.
- 1914—I. W. Klick—Strausstown, Shartlesville, Millersburg, Rehrers-burg Union, Little Tulpehocken, Schaefferstown.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

- 1914—E. E. Landis—Leesport, Gernant's, Epler's, Hinnerschitz.
 1914—H. S. Kidd—Womelsdorf, Host, St. Daniel's, Robesonia.
 1914—J. O. Schlenker—Grimsville, Wessnersville, Dunkel's, New Bethel.
 1914—J. W. Bittner—St. John's, Kutztown, Blandon; since 1917, Bern.
 1915—H. B. Ritter—Amityville, Friedensburg, Pricetown.
 1916-18. C. K. Fegley—Wyomissing.
 1917-19. R. H. Ischinger—Bechtelsville.
 1917-20. Chas. C. Snyder—Holy Spirit, Reading.
 1918—J. L. Deaton—Wyomissing, Rosedale.
 1918-19. E. Crouthamel—Faith, Peace.
 1920—W. E. Wenner—Bechtelsville.
 1920. D. E. Fethorolf—Oakbrook.
 1920—Corson C. Snyder—Shillington, Gibraltar, Plow.
 1920—Raymond J. Heckman—Faith, Peace.
 1921—C. G. Beck—Holy Spirit, Reading.
 1922—W. A. Fluck—St. Luke's, Reading.
 1922—Rufus E. Kern—Hamburg.
 1922—David F. Longacre—Stouchsburg, Rehrersburg, Millbach, New-manstown.
 1922—Harry E. Herman—Redeemer, Oakbrook.
 1922—Harry K. Lantz—St. James, Reading.
- Following are a number of pastors who served parishes of the East Pennsylvania Synod, on Reading Conference territory:
- Lyons—J. A. Singmaster, D. D., LL. D., Morris F. Good, D. D., G. W. Fritch, George J. Martz, W. J. Gaby, A. B. Miller, B. S. Dise, M. S. Miller, J. I. Hummer.
- Glenside and Stony Creek Mills—N. S. Wolf, George R. Schwartz, O. O. Leidich.
- St. Matthew's, Reading—Luther S. Black, Geo. W. Nicely, D. D., N. S. Wolf, C. R. Myers, S. W. Steckel, W. C. Dunlap, D. D.
- St. Peter's Reading—H. C. Schindle, J. A. Richter, Wm. B. Smith, Ph. D.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



MARTIN LUTHER

Born at Eisleben, November 10, 1483

Died at Eisleben, February 18, 1546

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



HENRY MELCHIOR MUHLENBERG

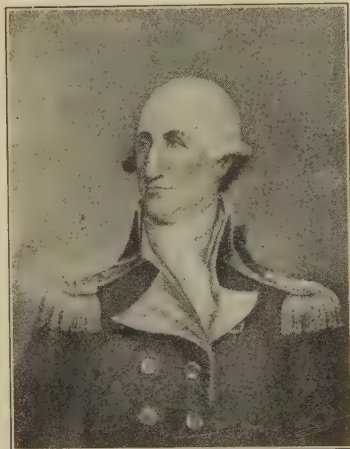
Patriarch of the Lutheran Church of America. Born, Hanover, Germany, 1711. Came to America 1742. Overseeing pastor of Berks County churches for 20 years. Founder of first Lutheran Synod in America. Author of first Lutheran Liturgy in America. Married Anna Maria Weiser at Stouchsburg, April 30, 1745. Third President of Ministerium of Pennsylvania, 1760-1771.

Motto: "The Church Must Be Planted."

Died and buried at Trappe, Pa, 1787.

JOHN PETER GABRIEL MUHLENBERG

Oldest son of Henry Melchior; Born at Trappe, Pa., 1746; Educated at Halle; Ordained in 1768; Pastor at Woodstock, Va.; "A time to pray and a time to fight." Major General of the United States Army in the Revolutionary War; Died at Philadelphia, 1807.

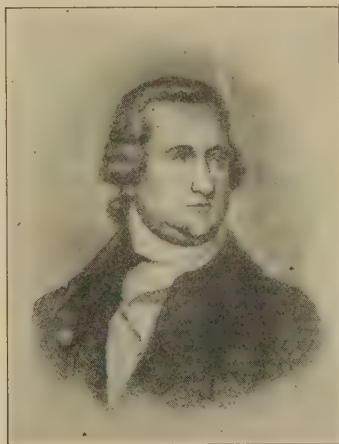


GOTTHILF HENRY ERNESTUS MUHLENBERG

Third surviving son of Henry Melchior; Born at Trappe, Pa., 1753; Educated at Halle; Ordained, 1770, Age 17 years; Pastor of Trinity, Lancaster, 1780-1815; One of America's greatest botanists; Died and buried at Lancaster, 1815.

FREDERICK AUGUSTUS CONRAD MUHLENBERG

Second son of Henry Melchior; Born at Trappe, Pa., 1750; Educated at Halle; Ordained 1770; Assistant Pastor at Stouchsburg; Organized New York Ministerium; President of Penna. Convention when U. S. Constitution was ratified; Speaker of first and second Congresses; Died and buried at Lancaster, 1801.



Brief Life Sketches of One Hundred Pastors



THOSE OF THIRTY YEARS AGO



THOSE OF TO-DAY

and others who served Berks county congregations for ten years or more within the memory of members now living or who were personally prominent or rendered conspicuous service.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. C. G. BECK

Charles Gurney Beck a son of Richard H. Beck, M.D. and Annie H. nee Herman was born at Maxatawny, Pa., on September 21, 1877. Most of his younger years were spent at Newburg, Northampton County, Pa. where his father practised his profession. He graduated at Muhlenberg College in 1898 and at Philadelphia Seminary in 1901 and was ordained shortly afterwards by the Ministerium of Pa. From 1901 to 1905 he was pastor at Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada. From 1905 to 1909 he was pastor at Montreal, Canada. He then returned to Pennsylvania and was pastor of St. Peter's North Wales from 1909 to 1921. Since 1921 he has been pastor of Holy Spirit, Reading. In 1902 he married Cora A. Smith. He has two sons.



REV. F. K. BERND

Franklin Kline Bernd a son of Francis G. Bernd and Christine (Kline) was born at Egypt, Lehigh Co., on March 16, 1850. He entered the Normal School at Kutztown and graduated in 1871. He had charge of the Model School in connection with the Normal until 1877. From this time until 1880 he was Principal of the Schools at Lehigh. In the latter year he entered the Seminary at Philadelphia graduating in 1883. On May 22 of the same year he was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. He then became Pastor of Jordan Congregation, Lehigh Co., which he served until 1889 when he accepted the Professorship of Latin and Greek at Kutztown. In 1900 he was called to be the Pastor of Mertztown and Maxatawny. For some time he filled both positions and then resigned the Professorship, giving his entire time to his parish which now included St. Peter's. On March 25, 1875 he married Hattie Heilman of Lehigh, Penna. He died at Kutztown on May 2, 1921. Survived by a son and five daughters. He was buried at Lehigh.



REV. T. C. BILLHEIMER, D.D.

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Thomas Charles Billheimer a son of Jesse and Julia A. Billheimer was born in Northampton Co., on Oct. 11, 1842. He entered Pennsylvania College in 1862 and graduated in 1865. He took the usual course in theology at the Seminary at Gettysburg and was licensed in 1867. He was Pastor at Watsonstown, Pa., 1867-68; at Shippensburg 1868-74; at Pittsburg 1874-77; at St. Matthew's, Reading 1877-94. He was Professor at the Gettysburg Seminary from 1894 to 1911 when he was elected Professor Emeritus. On Dec. 31, 1867 he married Emma C. Ziegler of York, Pa. He died at Gettysburg on February 10, 1923. His widow and three sons survive.

REV. J. W. BITTNER



Jacob Harvey Webster Bittner, a son of Nathan Bittner and Hettie (nee Schadt) was born in Lowhill Township, Lehigh County, June 18, 1882. His early years were spent on the farm. The rudiments of an education he obtained in the public schools of the district. Afterwards he attended the American Business College at Allentown. From there he went to the Preparatory department of Muhlenberg College. He was admitted to College proper in 1903, and graduated in 1907. He entered the Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy in the fall of the same year and graduated from that institution in 1910. He was then ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, May 22, at Philadelphia. He at once entered upon the pastorate of the Brickerville parish, in Lancaster Co. He served this field until the fall of 1914, when he accepted a call to the Kutztown-Blandon parish, which he is now serving.

July 26, 1906, he married Carrie Rauch. He has a daughter.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. W. F. BOND

William Franklin Bond a son of Edwin Bond and Catharine (Stump) was born in Greenwich Twp., Oct. 31, 1861. He entered the Normal School at Kutztown in 1881. He entered Muhlenberg College in 1884, graduating in 1888. The same year he entered the Seminary at Philadelphia and graduated in 1891. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania on May 26, 1891. His first charge consisted of St. Paul's, Tower City and St. Peter's, Orwin which he served from 1891 until 1904. In the latter year he accepted a call to the Bower's Parish which he is still serving. In 1891 he married Miss Amy A. Brehm who died on July 30, 1901. In 1904 he married Mrs. Katie E. (Krebs) Snyder. He is the father of two sons and four daughters.



REV. C. C. BOYER, PH.D.

Charles Clinton Boyer is the son of Joseph and Magdalena (Gunsett) Boyer. He was born in Lewisburg, Schuylkill county, Pa., August 6, 1860. He attended Keystone State Normal School, at Kutztown, 1877-80. He studied privately under Rev. I. S. N. Erb at Orwigsburg, 1880-83. In the latter year he entered the junior class at Muhlenberg College and graduated in 1885. Then he spent nearly a year at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Afterwards he continued his theological studies under Rev. G. B. Hancher, Ph.D., Kutztown, and was ordained in Trinity church, Lancaster, May 29, 1888. He was professor of pedagogy and psychology in the Normal School at Kutztown, 1886-91. In the latter year he received and accepted a call as pastor of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church, Boyertown. This position he filled for two years, when he returned to the work of teaching in which he is still engaged at the Normal School, Kutztown, Pa. August 7, 1889, he married Miss Margie Wright, Mt. Carmel, Northumberland county, Pa.

He does extensive supply work in vacant pulpits.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. J. A. BROWN, D. D., LL. D.

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James Allen Brown a son of James and Anna Brown was born in Lancaster County, Feb. 19, 1821. He entered Pennsylvania College in 1841, graduating the following year. He was licensed in 1844. His Pastorates were as follows—Luther Chapel, Baltimore 1845-48, York, Pa., 1848-49; St. Matthew's, Reading 1849-59. In the latter year he was called to the Professorship in the Seminary and College at Newberry, S. C. of which he was afterwards the President. The breaking out of the war caused his hasty return to Penna. in 1861. He served as Chaplain from 1861 until 1864 when he became President of Gettysburg Seminary. He held this position until 1881, when because of disability he retired. On Sept. 12, 1848 he married Mary Hay of York, Penna. He died at Lancaster on June 19, 1882, survived by a son who has since become a Judge of the Supreme Court. Dr. Brown was a leader in the Lutheran Church throughout his entire career.

REV. E. S. BROWNMILLER, D. D.



Ephriam Stein Brownmiller, a son of Joseph Brownmiller and Hannah (Stein) was born at Hamlin, formerly known as Klopp's Church, Lebanon county, Pa., October 5, 1853. His boyhood days were spent in the public schools. He attended Umben's private school one session. In 1868 he became organist of Christ church, Stouchsburg, and attended the academy at that place meanwhile, until 1870. During the spring term of the latter year he attended Palatinate College, Myerstown. In the fall he went to Swatara Institute, Jonestown. During 1871 and 1872 he taught school near Mt. Aetna and at Wintersville. In the spring of 1872 he went to Selingsgrove to continue his studies. As a student he supplied Union Deposit and Sand Hill 1874, and in 1875 he was licensed by the East Pennsylvania Synod, at Reading. Sandy Hollow and Wenrich's were added, 1876. In 1881 he took charge of Ephrata parish. He then united with the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. In 1886 he added the Reed's church and in 1889 he removed to Reading and took charge of the entire parish formerly served by Rev. T. T. Jaeger.

While pastor at Union Deposit he married Minnie Anna Zimmerman. They had two sons and four daughters.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. M. L. BROWNMILLER

Martin Luther Brownmiller a son of Rev. E. S. Brownmiller, D.D. and Minnie A. nee Zimmerman was born at Union Deposit, Dauphin Co., June 17, 1877. He attended the public schools at Ephrata and Reading. After that he pursued further studies at Lebanon Valley College at Annville, from 1896-1900. He then spent a brief period in further study at Gettysburg.

He entered the Theological department of Susquehanna University at Selinsgrove and graduated from that institution June 14, 1904.

He was ordained by the Susquehanna Synod May 22, 1904, at Hughsville, Lycoming Co. He at once became the assistant of his father in St. Mark's and other congregations of that parish. By arrangement of Conference he also served Shalter's church as its regular supply until 1920.

Having received a regular dismissal from his Synod in 1914, he was received into the Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

He is not married.



REV. J. J. CRESSMAN

John J. Cressman, a son of Abraham J. Cressman and Lydia (Frutchey) was born at Petersville, Northampton county, Pa., June 10, 1841. For a time he was engaged in teaching school. He then prepared himself for college at the Easton Collegiate Institute and entered as a freshman at Pennsylvania College, Gettysburg, in 1860. During the War he became a member of Company A, Twenty-sixth Regiment, Pennsylvania Militia, June and July, 1863. He was taken prisoner and paroled at the battle of Gettysburg. He graduated in 1864 and then went to the Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, where he graduated in 1867 and was ordained in Salem, Lebanon, June 19 of that year.

From 1867 to 1877 he was pastor at South Easton. In connection with the pastorate of the church, he was also principal of the High School and borough superintendent of schools for six years. In 1877 he took charge of St. John's, Kutztown, together with Frieden's, Bernville and North Heidelberg. He resigned the two latter at the beginning of 1900. August 27, 1865, he married Miss Emma C. M. Walters, Allentown, Pa. Four sons and two daughters were born. He died January 5th, 1914.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. A. D. CROLL



Alfred D. Croll, was born in Albany township, Berks county, Pa., June 25, 1838. His parents were John and Catharine Croll. He received his early training in the common schools of the neighborhood. From 1855 to 1860, five terms, he taught school in North Whitehall, Lehigh county. A part of 1857 he spent at the Reading Academy and the summer of the next two years at Freeland Seminary, Montgomery county. He spent 1860 to 1862 at the Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. He was licensed by the West Pennsylvania Synod, at Shippenburg, September, 1862. With fourteen others he was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in St. John's church, Reading, June 2, 1863.

At first he served only DeLong's (Bowers), Lobachville and the Hill church. Next year, 1864, he added Longswamp, Hereford, (Huff's), St. Peter's, and subsequently Mohrsville. In April, 1868, he went over to the East Pennsylvania Synod. A number of new congregations were organized. Mohrsville, Lyons Station, Pleasantville, Macungie and Upper Milford, constituted the Lyons charge of the East Pennsylvania Synod.

He had married Alice Trexler. He died June 19, 1876.

REV. P. C. CROLL, D. D.



Philip Columbus Croll a son of John Croll and Catharine DeLong was born in Maxatawny Twp., on Oct. 2, 1852. He taught school for three terms in North Whitehall Twp., Lehigh Co. He was a student at the Normal School at Kutztown for one term and then entered Pennsylvania College in 1873, graduating in 1876. He entered the Seminary at Gettysburg and graduated in 1879, receiving ordination the same year. He was Pastor of Congregations with Womelsdorf as a center until 1882, when he was called to St. Matthew's Schuylkill Haven which he served until 1892. From 1892 until 1909 he was pastor of the Seventh St. Church at Lebanon, Pa. He was Pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Beardstown, Ill., from 1909 until 1921 when he retired from the active ministry. He then took up his residence at Womelsdorf and continued doing supply work, also serving his community in historical research and literary activity. On March 11, 1880 he married Sallie A. Greiss of Alburdis, Pa. He has three sons and two daughters.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. JOHN L. DEATON, B.D.

John Leroy Deaton, a son of Rev. Dr. Willis and Margaret (Miller) Deaton was born at Selwood, S. C., on June 12, 1894. He attended the Public Schools and afterwards Lenoir College where he graduated in 1915. He then entered the Philadelphia Seminary graduating with the signal degree B.D. He was ordained at the meeting of the Ministerium held at St. John's Philadelphia in 1918. He immediately began his active ministry in Wyomissing at the Church of the Atonement which he still serves. He also organized the Calvary Congregation, Rosedale, of which he is the Supply Pastor.



REV. W. F. DEIBERT

Willis Franklin Deibert a son of Joseph Peter Deibert and Flora Ann nee Kern, was born March 15, 1883, at Lehighton, Carbon Co. He secured his preliminary education in the public schools at Schnecks-ville, Lehigh Co. During 1900, 1901 and 1903-04, he pursued further studies at the Keystone State Normal School, Kutztown, Pa. After that he spent three years as a public school teacher in Lehigh Co.

He entered Muhlenberg College as a Sophomore in 1904, and graduated in 1907. In the fall of the same year he entered the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy, and graduated in 1910. He was ordained May 23, 1910, in St. John's Church, Race St., Philadelphia, by the Ministerium of Penna. Having accepted a call from the Birdsboro parish, then newly organized, he at once entered upon his duties, there as pastor. He has served it ever since.

November 25, 1915, he married Miss Maria Louisa Seidel, of Pottstown, Pa. He has a son and a daughter.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. J. M. DEITZLER



Jefferson Minnig Deitzler a son of Jacob Deitzler and Mary Minnig was born at Pine Grove, Pa., June 17, 1828. He taught school for two years and read theology with his grandfather Rev. George Minnig for several years while he was acting as his assistant. In Sept. 1849 he was licensed by the Synod of East Penna. and after further instruction under Drs. Schock, Brown and Wedekind he was ordained. From 1850 to 1865 he served a number of congregations in Western Berks and Lebanon Counties. From 1865 to 1890 he was Pastor of Churches in and about Lebanon. He then removed to Union Deposit and served that Parish until 1895 when he took charge of congregations at Dover, York Co., Penna. He died on January 18, 1910.

REV. G. D. DRUCKENMILLER



George D. Druckenmiller was born in Hereford Township, Berks Co., Feb. 26, 1864. He is the son of Enos Druckenmiller, and Elizabeth, nee Desh. He was brought up on the farm. He attended the public schools of the district and afterwards those of Upper Milford Township, Lehigh County.

He prepared for college in the Academic department of Muhlenberg, and graduated from the college proper in 1894. In this latter year he entered the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy, graduating from that institution in May, 1897. He was ordained the same year by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, at Lancaster.

He then took charge of the Freeburg parish in Snyder County. In the summer of 1900, he accepted a call to the Freemansburg parish:—Trinity Union Church; Freemansburg and St. John's, Williams Township. Here he remained until December, 1905. He then accepted a call to Nazareth, Penna., where he remained until September, 1910.

Having accepted a call to Hamburg, he then removed thither and served that field until April, 1922, when he accepted a call to St. John's Church, Tamaqua.

He married Ella J., daughter of Peter Lerch and Mary, nee Romig, on September 8, 1897.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. W. S. DRY

William Scott Dry was born at New Jerusalem, Rockland Township, December 14, 1882. He is a son of Augustus F. Dry and Annie, nee, Boyer. He spent his early years on the farm and in his father's blacksmith shop.

From the public schools of his district, he went to the Keystone State Normal School at Kutztown, spending the years 1898-1900 and 1903 there. He entered Muhlenberg College during the latter year and graduated from that institution in 1906. In the fall of that year he entered the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy and graduated there in 1909. He was ordained June 7th of that year in the Church of the Holy Communion, Phila.

He at once entered upon his duty as pastor of the Stouchsburg parish. In 1921 he accepted a call to the Maxatawny Parish which he is now serving.

June 1st, 1911, he married Miss Emma M. Hartman.

He has two sons.



REV. W. C. DUNLAP, Ph.D. D.D.

Wilton Clyde Dunlap a son of Scott Dunlap and Lydia nee Dunlap was born at Pine Grove Mills, Centre Co. Pa. on December 29, 1865. His early training was received in the public schools and an academy of his native place. He prepared for college at the Missionary Institute at Selinsgrove Pa. from which he graduated in 1889. He graduated from Gettysburg College in 1891 and from Gettysburg Seminary in 1894. He did post graduate work at the Iowa Christian College and at the Central University, Indianapolis. He served at Duncannon 1894-95; Spencerville Ind. 1895-99; Oswego N. Y. 1899-1901; Montoursville, Pa. 1901-11; Pittsburgh (St. Mark's) 1911-12; North Manchester, Ind. 1912-16; Louisville, Kentucky, 1916-21; Reading, St. Matthew's, 1921 to present time. He married Irene Beck of Loveville, Pa. June 6, 1894. Three sons and a daughter were born. The mother died in 1917. On February 25, 1919 he married Miss May Violet Rhone.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. J. W. EARLY



John William Early a son of William Early and Leah (Dutweiler) was born near Palmyra Sept. 3, 1835. His boyhood days were spent on the farm. At the age of seventeen he entered the Preparatory Department of Gettysburg College graduating in 1857. He entered Gettysburg Seminary in 1858 and was ordained in Philadelphia in 1860. He served the following parishes—Leacock 1860-66; Elizabethtown 1866-68; Selinsgrove, 1868-70; Stone Valley Parish 1870-75; Danville German 1875-83; Trevorton, 1883-87; Millersville, 1887-89; Jersey Shore 1889-93. From Jersey Shore he moved to Reading where he served vacant pulpits until his death on Jan. 15, 1918. On Jan. 8, 1861 he married Jane M. Eggers. He published two hundred and twenty five sketches of Lutheran Ministers in Berks County. At the request of the Reading Conference historical sketches of Lutheran congregations in Berks Co. were prepared by him and published in the Reading Times in 1907.

REV. A. O. EBERT



Alfred Oliver Ebert was born in Lynn Township, Lehigh Co., February 19, 1870. He is a son of Amandes Ebert and his wife, Sarah A., nee, Moser. He received his early education in the public schools, and afterwards the select schools of his district. He then taught three terms in the public schools, meanwhile preparing for college.

He entered Muhlenberg College in the fall of 1889 and graduated 1893. In the fall of that same year he entered the Lutheran Theological Seminary and graduated from that institution in 1896. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, June 17, 1896, in St. John's Allentown. He at once entered upon his duty as pastor of the Audenried, Beaver Meadow parish, Luzerne Co.

Having received a call from Shoenersville and Rittersville, he removed thither August 1, 1904. This field he served until called to the New Tripoli parish, consisting of Ebenezer at New Tripoli; Jacobs, Jacksonville; St. Reber's, Leymanville; St. Paul's Seiberlingsville, and Jerusalem (Allemaengel). The last named is in Berks County. He is serving this field now.

He married Anna Minerva, daughter of the former pastor, Rev. H. S. Fegley in 1897. He is the father of five sons and three daughters.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. L. G. EGGERS

Lewis Gustavus Eggers a son of Henry Eggers and Charlotte (Lambrecht) was born in Hanover, Germany Feb. 14, 1805. He came to America with his parents in 1822. He entered the School at Gettysburg in 1829 and the Theological Seminary in 1831. The Ministerium of Pennsylvania licensed him in 1835 to serve in Nittany and Sugar Valley. His license was renewed by the West Penna. Synod in 1836. He remained here until 1847 when he moved to Palmyra, serving congregations in this town and vicinity until 1851. In the latter year he took charge of the Stouchsburg Parish and served it until 1867, when because of feeble health he retired. Having regained his health somewhat he accepted a call to the Trevorton Charge in 1869. Two years later at the urgent request of the Palmyra Parish he returned to his former field, serving it for about four years and then retired. On Feb. 6, 1838 he married Lydia Schaeffer who died in 1868. In 1872 he married Elizabeth B. Kettering (nee Harper). In Oct. 1882 he died leaving a son and two daughters.



REV. PETER FILBERT

Peter Filbert a son of Peter Filbert, Sheriff of Berks Co., was born in Reading in 1793. In 1814 he was licensed as a Candidate for the Ministry. In 1817 he was ordained as a Deacon and in 1820 he was declared a Minister. Before this time and until 1829 he served in the New Holland Charge. Because of difficulty in the use of the German language he read law and was admitted to the bar in 1831. In 1840 he represented Berks Co. in the State Legislature. While Reading was still a Borough he was its Chief Burgess and when the City charter was granted in 1847 he became the first Mayor under it and held the office for one year. In connection with his pastorate he served the Allegheny and Plow Churches of southwestern Berks. He died May 28, 1864.

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LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. A. FINFROCK



Aaron Finfrock a son of Peter Finfrock and wife (nee Meckley) was born in Frederick Co., Md., on August 1, 1825. His early years were spent in private schools and in the Academy at Manchester. In 1849 he entered the Preparatory Department of Gettysburg College, afterwards pursuing the regular college course until 1854, then adopting a special course until 1856 when he entered the Gettysburg Seminary. After the completion of his theological course in the fall of 1858 he was licensed by the Synod of Maryland. Having accepted a call to the Dillsburg Charge, he was ordained by the West Penna. Synod at Hanover Sept. 5, 1858. Here he remained until 1864 when he removed to Berks Co. and took charge of St. Daniel's, Geigertown, Kissingers and Bern. In Dec. 1865 he settled at Womelsdorf as Pastor of the Womelsdorf Parish, retaining for a short time Bern and Kissingers. He served this parish until 1891 when he retired from the active ministry. In 1896 he moved to Reading and resided there partly disabled until Oct. 29, 1902 when he died.

REV. W. K. FISHER



Willaim Klopp Fisher a son of John L. Fisher and wife Elizabeth nee, Klopp, was born December 8, 1876, at Wintersville, Berks Co.

In early youth he attended the public schools of Marion Twp., then he went to Grammar School at Myerstown 1889-91. Afterwards from 1891-1894, to Palatinate, now Albright College, Myerstown. Entered Muhlenberg College fall of 1894 and graduated 1897. Same year he entered Lutheran Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy and graduated 1900. Was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania the same year at Phila.

He at once became pastor of the Jones-town parish in Lebanon Co.,-and served it until 1906, when he was called to East Pike-land parish, Chester Co., where he served until 1910. Then being called to Wyomissing—he was pastor of Blandon, Wyomissing field until 1913. Thence he was called to the Shoemakersville parish of which he has had charge since 1913.

Sept. 3, 1901, he married Rose G. Pfaunkuch, Lebanon, who died July 17, 1911. Married on Nov. 25, 1915, Tillie Leshner, (nee Fisher) of Philadelphia.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. W. A. FLUCK

William Albert Fluck a son of Rev. J. F. C. Fluck and Elizabeth K. nee Schmitt was born at Philadelphia Pa. on December 17th. 1888. After his preliminary training in the common schools he attended Temple University in 1907 to 1908. He graduated from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1911 and was ordained by the New York and New England Synod in the same year. He was pastor of Holy Trinity, East Orange, N. J. for two years and then accepted a call to the Tinicum Parish where he remained until January 1st. 1922 when he became pastor of St. Luke's Reading.

In 1916 he married Carrie Sigafos. Two sons and a daughter have been born.



REV. J. FRY, D. D., L. H. D., LL. D.

Jacob Fry a son of Jacob Fry and Mary (Gross) was born at Trappe, Pa. Feb. 9, 1834. He graduated at Union College in 1851 and at Gettysburg Seminary in 1853. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1853 and served the following congregations—First English Church, Carlisle, Pa., 1854-65; Trinity Reading, Pa., 1865-96; Church of the Ascension, Mt. Airy, Pa., 1896-1920. He was elected Professor of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology at the Philadelphia Seminary in 1891 and occupied this position until his death. In 1855 he married Eliza J. Wattles of Gettysburg. They had two sons and seven daughters. Dr. Fry was Secretary and Treasurer of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and later its President as well as its Senior in the last years of his life. He died at Philadelphia Feb. 19, 1920 eighty six years of age having met his appointments as Professor and Preacher to the very end. His gifts as a Preacher were universally recognized. During the sixty-seven years of his active ministry he was a regular contributor to Church periodicals and the author of a number of books.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. Z. H. GABLE



Zenas Henry Gable a son of Daniel and Elizabeth Gable was born at Cherryville, Pa., on Aug. 13, 1842. In 1860 he entered the Preparatory Department of Gettysburg College, graduating from the College in 1865. He then entered the Philadelphia Seminary, graduating in 1868. In June of the same year he was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. He was the Pastor at Scenery Hill, Pa. 1868-73, Birdsboro Parish 1873-1909. On Dec. 24, 1868 he married Thusie Vogelbach. He died at Reading, Pa, on Dec. 15, 1909. He is survived by two sons in the Ministry, a son in the Medical Profession and two daughters.

REV. D. G. GERBERICH

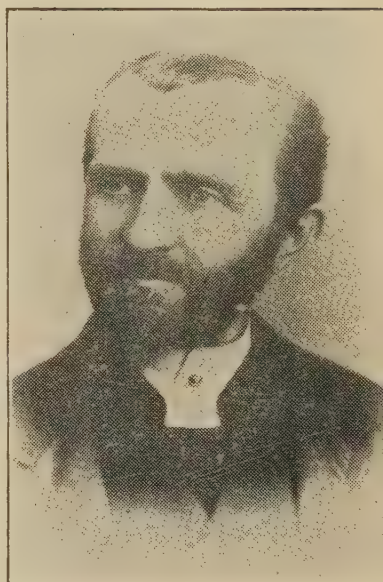


David Gerhart Gerberich a son of George S. Gerberich and Sarah (Gerhart) was born in Lebanon Co., East Hanover Twp., on March 1, 1863. He was a student at the Normal School at Kutztown and afterwards taught school two years. He prepared for College in the Muhlenberg Academy and graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1888. After the usual three years course at the Philadelphia Seminary, he graduated in 1891. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania on May 26, 1891. He immediately became the pastor of the Weatherly parish and continued to serve it until 1901 when he accepted a call to the Centerport parish which he served until 1912. The same year (1912) he accepted a call to Prospect, Pa., where he served Emmanuel's Church until 1917. Since then he was Pastor of Wolf's Cross Roads Pa., Parish 1917-1919; McClure, Pa., parish since 1919. On Sept. 20, 1887 he married Eliza J. Knappenberger.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. L. GROH, D.D.

Leonard Groh a son of Abraham Groh and Sarah Stricker was born near Schaefferstown, Lebanon Co., Pa. on Aug. 18, 1835. He entered the Preparatory Department of Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg in 1856 graduating from the College in 1861. He entered the Seminary at Gettysburg in the fall of the same year and was ordained by the Ministerium of Penna. on June 3, 1863. He was pastor at Quakertown, Pa., 1863-65; He moved to Hanover Montgomery Co., in 1865 and had charge of that congregation with Boyertown until 1881 when he moved to Boyertown and served St. John's alone until 1891. He then moved to Lincoln, Neb., where he served as Pastor until 1895, afterward serving St. Mark's Omaha, Neb. April 4, 1870 he married Martha Hicks who died in 1878. In 1880 he married her sister Hettie Hicks. Three children were born to the first union. He died at Omaha Neb., on Oct. 24, 1919.



REV. S. L. HARKEY, D.D.

Sidney Levi Harkey a son of John and Sarah Harkey was born in Iredell Co., North Carolina, on April 3, 1827. When he was but a boy his parents moved to Illinois where he received his Preparatory education in the Hillsboro Academy. He spent (1844-47) at Pennsylvania College. He studied theology under his brother Simeon W. Harkey. He was licensed at Cumberland, Md., in 1848; Newville Cumberland Co., Pa., 1849-52; Peoria and Pekin Ill., 1852-54; Mendon, Ill., 1854-59; Decatur, Ill., 1859; Shelbyville 1860-62; Nocomis and Audubon 1862-1865; Vandalia 1865-68; Chicago 1870-71, Dayton, Ohio, 1871-72, Indianapolis 1872-73, Mt. Pleasant, Pa., 1873-83, Toledo, Ohio 1883-87, Melrose, Fla., 1887-88; North Lima, Ohio, 1888-91; Trinity, Kutztown 1891-1901. On May 16, 1848 he married Mary Jenkins of Gettysburg who died about 1868. About 1872 he married Susie Freeman of Cincinnati, Ohio. He died at Kutztown Sept. 23, 1901.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. J. C. HARTWIG

John Christopher Hartwig was born in Germany in 1714. He came to America in 1746, having been ordained as a missionary to serve the Palatines in New York. He was pastor of Trinity Reading 1757 to 1758. His ministerial labors covered many states reaching from Maine to Virginia. He was the founder of the first Lutheran Theological Seminary in America named after him and located in a town in New York also named after him. He was never married. His estate consisting of large tracts bought from the Indians was bequeathed to the seminary with special instructions to train missionaries for work among the heathen. He died in 1796.

REV. R. J. HECKMAN



Raymond Jeremiah Heckman a son of Elias and Lenora Heckman was born at Hamburg, Pa., on November 5th, 1892. After the usual preliminary training in the public schools he entered Muhlenberg College from which he graduated in 1917. He graduated from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1920 and was ordained on June 3rd, 1920, by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in St. John's Church Wilkesbarre, Pa. He at once entered his new field of labor in Reading, as pastor of Faith and Peace Churches which he is still serving.

In 1920 he married Grace Staudt.

REV. C. G. HEFFNER

Charles Gaby Heffner a son of Isaac R. Heffner and Emma A. (Gaby) was born in Richmond Township, Berks Co., February 4, 1880. His younger days were spent on the farm, and he attended the public schools of his district. Afterwards he pursued further studies at the Keystone State Normal School at Kutztown, from 1893 to 1898. In the fall of 1902, he entered Muhlenberg College as a sophomore, and graduated in 1905. In the fall of the same year he entered the Lutheran Theological Seminary, at Mt. Airy and graduated from that institution in 1908.

He was ordained by the Ministerium of Penna., June 15, 1908, having accepted a call to the Washingtonville parish, consisting of the two congregations, Washingtonville and Trinity, Liberty Township, Montour Co. He served that field from June 21st of that year until July 1st, 1910. He then accepted a call to the Robeson parish, Trinity, Gouglersville; Alegheney and Plow, taking up his residence at Mohnton. He then supplied St. John's, Mohnton, temporarily by arrangement with Conference until it was made the centre of the recently constructed Mohnton Parish which he now serves.

May 3, 1910, he married Bernice J. Courson, Washingtonville, Pa.

He has one son.



REV. U. P. HEILMAN

Uriah Peter Heilman a son of John Heilman and Mary (Gooq) was born in Whitehall Twp., Lehigh Co., Pa., Dec. 5, 1849. He was a student at the Normal School at Millersville for a short time and then taught school in his home district for several terms. He graduated from the Normal School at Kutztown in 1872. After having taken a two years course in scientific studies he was chosen Professor of Philosophy which he taught until 1875. He had charge of a Parochial School in Philadelphia for three years and then entered the Philadelphia Seminary graduating in 1881. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in the latter year and took charge of the Amityville Parish immediately on his Ordination. He served here until 1896 when he was called to be the first Superintendent of the newly organized Orphans' Home at Topton, Pa. After serving faithfully for but three years he died on April 10, 1900. In 1883 he married Elacesta Elizabeth Moyer. A son and two daughters were born. A monument to his memory has been erected on the grounds at the home.

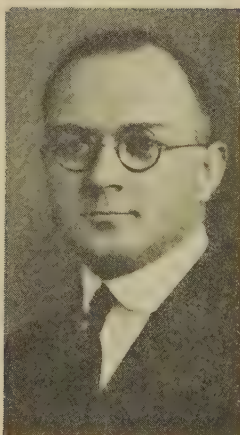


LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. J. O. HENRY



Jonas Oscar Henry a son of Daniel K. Henry and Sarah (nee Wagaman) was born at Stines Corner, Pa., March 4, 1874. He received his preparatory training in the public schools and under private teachers. He taught school for three years. He then entered Muhlenberg College, graduating in 1899. After the usual course at the Philadelphia Seminary he graduated in 1902, receiving ordination from the Ministerium of Penna. in the same year. He immediately became the pastor of the Topton parish which he served until 1909 when he became the superintendent of the Topton Orphans' Home, which position he now fills. In 1903 he married Ida L. Sefing of Allentown, Pa. They have three sons.



REV. H. E. HERMAN

Harry Edward Herman a son of Harry T. and Minnie U. (Lyter) Herman was born at Elizabethville, Pa. on October 21st 1892. He was a student at Muhlenberg College from 1915 to 1918 and then became a sub-junior at the Philadelphia Seminary from which he graduated in 1922, being at once ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. Shortly afterwards he took charge of the Redeemer Church, Reading, which he is now serving. In 1922 he married Elizabeth Witmer.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. G. A. HINTERLEITNER, D.D.

Gustav Adolph Hinterleitner was born October 2, 1824, in Weissenberg, Bavaria. He obtained his classical and theological training in Germany. In 1849, having recently arrived in America, he was employed by Rev. Wm. P. Kaemerer, Richlandtown, Bucks county, as his assistant.

He applied for admission to Synod 1851, and was licensed at Allentown in June. April 7, 1851, he was ordained in Trinity, Reading. In January, 1852, he took charge of the congregation at Kutztown. In October he added Friedensburg, Lobachsville and Oley. Prior to this he had already taken charge of New Jerusalem, or Dunkel's church. A few years afterwards, 1855, he added Pricetown, making six congregations.

The two struggling German churches at Pottsville agreed to unite into one, and called him as the pastor, 1866. He remained their sole pastor until 1890. It having now become evident that provision must be made for English preaching, Rev. J. H. Umbenhen was called as his assistant. About 1895 he was partially disabled by a paralytic stroke. He was then made Pastor Emeritus. March 13, 1901, he died.

He was the father of 13 children, eight of whom survived him—four sons and four daughters.



REV. M. C. HORINE, D. D.

Mahlon Carleton Horine a son of John and Catharine Horine was born at Myersville, Md., on July 14, 1838. In 1855 he entered the Academy at Gettysburg and graduated from the College in 1861. He completed his seminary course in 1864 and was ordained in 1865. He served Smithsburg, Md., 1865-69; Dayton, Ohio, 1869-70; Zanesville, Ohio 1870-73, Trinity, Danville, Pa., 1873-81, St. James Reading 1881-1909; Trinity, Manoa 1913-1917. He held many positions of honor including that of the President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania 1904-07. On May 16, 1865 he married Emma F. Winebrenner. Two sons, one in the Ministry and a daughter survived him at the time of his death which occurred on May 16, 1917.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. E. T. HORN, D. D., LL. D.



Edward Trail Horn a son of Melchior H. Horn and Matilda L. (Heller) was born at Easton, Pa., on June 10, 1850. He graduated at Gettysburg College in 1869 and from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1872, receiving ordination the same year from the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. He was Pastor of Christ Church, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, 1872-76; St. John's, Charleston, S. C., 1876-97; Trinity, Reading, Pa., 1897-1911. In 1911 he was elected Professor of Ethics and Missions at the Philadelphia Seminary. Besides prominent service rendered in various activities of the Church he was also President of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania 1909-13. On June 15, 1880 he married Harriet Chisolm of Charleston, S. C. Three daughters and four sons were born to this union of which one son serves the Church as a College Professor, another son as a Home Missionary and a third son as a Foreign Missionary in Japan. He died at Philadelphia on March 4, 1915.

REV. R. W. HUFFORD, D.D.



Rufus Ward Hufford a son of Thomas Hufford and Jane Norris was born in Ohio. His early education was received in the Common Schools and at Vermillion Institute, a Preparatory School at Hayesville, Ohio. He graduated from Wittenberg College in 1873 and from the Seminary in 1876. He was ordained by the East Penna. Synod in Sept. 1876. He was Pastor of St. John's, Easton, for twelve years and of St. Matthew's, Reading, from 1893 to 1901. He was also Pastor at Millersville, Atchinson, Kansas and the Shillington-Oakbrook parish, from which he retired some years ago. He married Miss Bomgardner of Lancaster, Pa.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. D. K. HUMBERT

David Keidling Humbert, a son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Keidling) Humbert was born in Greenwich Twp., on March 11, 1835. He spent his early years on a farm, behind the counter, in a tannery and as a school teacher. He attended Freeland Seminary (Ursinus College) for three years. He served as a Sgt. during the Civil War, after which he went to the Philadelphia Seminary graduating in 1867 and receiving ordination from the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in the same year. He immediately took charge of the Geigertown parish, serving until 1872 when he accepted the call of the Bowers parish, which he served until 1903 and again from 1904 to 1912. In 1867 he married Maria DeLong. Three daughters were born to this union. He died at Bowers on Sept. 21, 1913.



REV. J. I. HUMMER

John Ilgen Burrell Hummer, a son of Samuel Hummer and Lydia, nee Florey, was born in Northampton Co. on February 2, 1872. He prepared for college at Lerch's Preparatory School at Easton and at Susquehanna University at Selinsgrove. He entered Gettysburg College in 1896 and graduated in 1900. He then entered the Gettysburg Seminary and graduated in 1903. He was ordained in the same year by the East Pennsylvania Synod. He served the following parishes: Tannersville, Monroe Co., 1903 to 1906 and again 1911-1914; Glen Gardner, N. J., 1906-1909; Oberlin, Pa., 1909-1911; Seven Valley, Pa., 1914-1917; Mt. Carmel, Pa., 1917-1919; Manchester, Pa., 1919-1923; Lyons, 1923—.

In 1904 he married Alta Neyhart of Monroe County. They have a son.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. F. K. HUNTZINGER, D. D.



Franklin Krick Huntzinger a son of Jared Huntzinger and Leah (Krick) was born in West Cocalico Twp., Lancaster Co., Pa., on June 18, 1844. He attended public school and also received private instruction before entering the Seminary at Philadelphia in 1866, from which he graduated in 1869. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1869 and at once took charge of St. Luke's, Reading, then a mission of Trinity. This was his only parish but in connection with it, he also served Kissingers' 1869-81; Lenhartsville 1870-76; St. Paul's Windsor Castle 1870-76, Alsace 1873-97, St. Peter's Beckers 1874-1904. He was President of the Board of Trustees of the Topton Orphans' Home from the time of its establishment until his death. On Sept. 16, 1869 he married Mary M. Hassinger. On account of failing health he resigned and was elected Pastor Emeritus less than a month before his death on May 2, 1921.

REV. G. F. J. IAEGER



Gottlieb F. J. Iaegeer was born in Wuertemberg, Germany July 20, 1796. He came to America in 1817. He taught school for several years while he also completed his theological studies and was licensed by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1819, receiving Ordination in 1825. He lived in the neighborhood of Klinesville and during a pastorate in this community for fifty five years he served the following congregations—Friedens Wesnersville 54 years, St. Paul's near Hamburg 44 years, New Bethel Grimsville and New Bethel Corner each 43 years; Crollen 35 years, Jacksonville 31 years, New Jerusalem Dunkels 51 years, St. John's Hamburg 30 years, Lenhartsville 13 years, Maxatawny 9 years, New Tripoli and St. Peter's 8 years each; Trinity, Pottsville; Christ McKeensburg and Hinnerschitz each one year. On March 14, 1820 he married Mary Audenreid of Kutztown. Eleven children were born one of them a pastor in Berks county for a number of years. He died on November 16, 1879.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

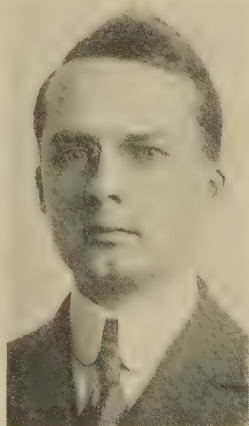
REV. T. T. IAEGER

Thomas Theophilus Iaeger, a son of Rev. G. F. J. Iaeger and Mary J. (Audenreid) was born Aug. 29, 1826 in Greenwich Twp. He studied theology under Dr. Richards of Easton and was licensed as a Minister in 1847. He was ordained at Pottsville in 1850. During the first few years of his Ministry he served the Union Church at Rehrersburg and the Allegheny and Roberson Churches besides assisting his father. During this time he resided at Womelsdorf. He then took charge of the Brickerville parish but returned to Womelsdorf in 1852, where he served various churches until 1865. On account of ill health his activities ceased until 1869 when he took charge of Oley, Bern, Shalters, Friedensburg, Zion Perry Twp., Hamburg as a supply and Kissingers. Some of these congregations he served for only a brief period. At one time or another of his ministry he was the pastor or regular supply of not less than twenty four congregations in western and central portions of Berks county. On Dec. 4, 1849 he married Mary Palsgrove of Mercersburg. They had ten children, seven of whom died in infancy. He died May 13, 1888.



REV. C. E. KEISER, Ph.D.

Clarence Elwood Keiser a son of William H. and Fianna (Carl) Keiser was born at Lyons, Pa., Oct. 12, 1884. After an early and thorough training in public and private schools and in the Normal School at Kutztown, Pa. he entered Muhlenberg College in 1903 graduating in 1905. He graduated from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1908 and became the pastor of the church at Millersville, Pa., immediately after his ordination by the Ministerium of Pa. at St. John's, Allentown, Pa., on June 15th, 1908. In 1909 he resigned to enable him to continue his studies. He has done graduate work in the University of Pa. 1909-1910, Yale 1910-1912, University of Leipzig, 1911. He was supply pastor in Connecticut; curator at Yale 1912-1914, instructor in Smith College 1914-1915, lecturer at Yale 1919-1920. He is a member of the New York Ministerium but spends most of his time at Lyons, Berks county, Pa. In 1914 he married Eva M. Heilman of Allentown, Pa.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. F. A. M. KELLER



Muhlenberg Keller was a son of Rev. Benjamin Keller and wife, Catharine Eliza. He was born April 28, 1819, at Carlisle, where his father was pastor at the time. He entered the preparatory department of Pennsylvania College in 1833, from Germantown, while his father was pastor there. He graduated in 1838 and then pursued his theological studies at the Seminary at Gettysburg. July 5, 1843, he was licensed by the Ministerium at Germantown, and June 5, 1844, he was ordained at Pottstown.

In the reports to Synod he is called the English pastor of Trinity by Dr. Miller up to the time of his (Dr. Miller's) death, May 16, 1850. In the minutes for that year Rev. Keller appears as the pastor of Trinity, Reading, Sinking Spring, Alsace, Schwarzwald and Spiess, the congregations which had up to this time belonged to Dr. Miller. He then became the founder of St. James,' 1850, and continued to serve it until his death. He also was the pastor of Emanuel's at Hamburg, which no longer exists. He also took charge of a number of other country churches, besides Sinking Spring, which he continued to serve, viz., the Plow, St. James, Geigertown, Kissinger's etc.

During the threatened invasion of Pennsylvania by General Lee in 1862, he enlisted in the state service. The exposure was too much for him as he was not very robust. In 1863 he was elected treasurer of Synod, but died before he had held the office for a full year, in March, 1864.

In 1848 he married Susan Hunter, who soon died, leaving him a widower.



REV. R. E. KERN

Rufus Erb Kern the son of Milton M. and Annie H. (Erb) Kern was born at Red Hill Pa. Nov. 22, 1886. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1909 and from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1912 being ordained by the Ministerium at Bethlehem in the same year. He was pastor at Marion Va. from 1912 to 1914, Trenton, N. J., 1914-1916, Keller's Church, Bucks Co. 1916-1922 and since then at Hamburg. He was instructor in Marion College 1912-1914. He married Florence May Haring in 1912.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. H. S. KIDD

Harvey Samuel Kidd a son of John Kidd and Anna Margaret, nee, Eberts, was born at Bath, Northampton County, Pa., on April 28, 1884, and was brought up on the farm. Having attended the public schools until 1900 at Bath, he then entered the Academic Department of Muhlenberg College. In 1901 he entered College and graduated in 1905. In the fall of the latter year he entered the Theological Seminary and graduated from the same in 1908. June 15th of that year he was ordained by our Ministerium at St. John's, Allentown. Having accepted their call he at once entered upon his duty as pastor of the Plainfield parish in the Allentown Conference. In 1912 he was called to be the Field Secretary to raise \$500,000.00 for Muhlenberg College and the Philadelphia Seminary. He continued in this work until in July 1914 when he took charge of the Womelsdorf parish, which he is now serving.

June 30, 1908, he married Anna Florence Kramer, Williamstown, Pa.

He is the father of a son and three daughters.



REV. PH. KIRCHNER

Philipp Kirchner a son of Wilhelm and Karolina (Lackmann) Kirchner was born in Otterberg, Rheinpfalz, Germany on Jan. 24, 1876. He came to this country in 1892 graduating from Wagner College in 1897 and from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1900. He then did graduate work in the universities of Leipzig, Heidelberg and Berlin. In 1902 he was ordained by the Ministerium of Pa. He at once entered his work as Associate Pastor of St. Johannes under Dr. Kuendig. In 1917 he became the regular pastor in which capacity he is now serving.

He married Wilhemina Kirchner in 1904.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. C. E. KISTLER



Charles Edward Kistler a son of William S. Kistler and Maria Grim was born in Kistler's Valley, Berks County, Aug. 23, 1870. He received his preliminary education in the public schools and under private instruction, preparing him to enter Muhlenberg College in 1891. Previous to this time he taught school for three terms. He graduated from Muhlenberg College with the class of 1895. He entered the Philadelphia Seminary in the same year, graduating in 1898, in which year he was also ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. He immediately accepted a call to the Alsace Church which he has served since his ordination. He married Effie E. Fisher.

REV. I. W. KLICK



Ira Werner Klick, a son of Jonathan Klick, Sr., and Sarah Ann, nee, Werner, was born in East Hanover Twp., Lebanon Co., Dec. 9, 1868. During his childhood he worked on his father's farm, meanwhile attending the public schools of the district. He then spent some time in teaching public school. In 1891 he attended the Keystone State Normal School and graduated from that institution. He also attended Palatinate College at Myerstown for a time. In 1894 he entered Muhlenberg College graduating in 1897. In the fall he entered Mt. Airy Theological Seminary and graduated 1900. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Penna., June 6th of the same year.

He at once entered upon his duty as pastor of St. Stephen's Church, Allentown, where he remained until 1910, when he received and accepted a call to Zion, Marietta, Lanc. Co. He served this congregation until 1914, when he took charge of the Strausstown parish.

May 11, 1911, he married Henrietta S. Coover, Myerstown.

He has two sons.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. H. C. KLINE

Harry Charles Kline a son of Christian S. Kline and Amanda J. (Koch) was born in Philadelphia on May 27, 1868. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1894, and from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1897. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pa. in Trinity Church Lancaster on June 18, 1897 and immediately began his pastorate in the Hamburg parish then consisting of four congregations. In 1910 he accepted a call to Salem, Bethlehem, Pa. and served there until 1920 when he accepted a call to the Church of the Reformation in Brooklyn N. Y. where he is now serving. In 1897 he married Gertrude Lillian Leh of Allentown, Pa.



REV. J. J. KLINE, Ph. D.

John Jacob Kline a son of Jacob E. and Catherine (Zartman) Kline was born at Rehrersburg, Pa. September 17, 1856. He received his preparatory training at Palatinate College (Albright) Myerstown from 1876-80. He then entered Muhlenberg College graduating in 1883. After the usual course at the Philadelphia Seminary he graduated in 1886. He took graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania 1891-95. In 1886 he was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. He took charge of New Hanover, Montgomery Co. and Christ Church at Niantic also organizing Trinity Bechtelsville, Berks Co. in 1888 and Grace, Pottstown in 1896. He ceased to serve Niantic in 1905 and Bechtelsville in 1916 while he continues to serve the other two. He married Georgie R. Brendlinøer of New Hanover in 1888. She died in 1913. In 1917 he married Minnie E. Woelfly of Jonestown. He has a daughter.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. W. H. KLINE



William Herbert Kline a son of Wm. F. Kline and Mary A., nee, Grim, was born in Maxatawny Township May 27, 1883. During his boyhood he attended the public schools of the district, known as Grim's Independent School District. He then attended the Keystone State Normal School and graduated from the same in 1900. He entered Muhlenberg College, graduating in 1905. In the fall of that year he entered the Philadelphia Seminary and graduated in 1908. June 15th of the same year he was ordained by the Ministerium in St. John's Allentown. Having accepted a call to Red Bank, within the bounds of the Pittsburg Synod, he at once took charge of that field. After serving it a short time, he received a call to the Tipton parish which he accepted and is still serving.

November 16, 1909, he married Miss Laura Edith Diener.

He has a son and a daughter.

REV. B. E. KRAMLICH



Benjamin Elias Kramlich a son of Christian Kramlich and Catharine (Kocher) was born in Weisenberg Twp. Lehigh Co. Oct. 7, 1841. His early training was secured in the public schools and in a private academy at Easton Pa. He then clerked for several years and in 1851 entered the Preparatory Department of Gettysburg College graduating from the college in 1856. After two years at the Gettysburg Seminary he was licensed by the West Pennsylvania Synod in 1858. He was admitted into the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and ordained in 1859. He first took charge of Trexlertown, Maxatawny, Moselem, Fleetwood, Rockland, Hereford, and Mertztown. During his ministry he ceased serving Moselem and Hereford adding St. Peter's Tipton which he had organized. He served this charge until his death. He was closely identified with the Normal School at Kutztown from its beginning and its President during the last 23 years of his life. In 1863 he married Sophie B. Bieber. He died January 1, 1900. Three sons, two of them in the ministry and one a teacher also two daughters survived.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. W. W. KRAMLICH

William Wilberforce Kramlich a son of Rev. B. E. Kramlich and Sophie B. (Bieber) was born at Kutztown January 22, 1866. He received his preparatory training in his native place principally in the Normal School with a year at Chambersburg then entering Muhlenberg College in 1883 graduating in 1887. He took the usual course in the Philadelphia Seminary graduating in 1891. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1891 and for the first year assisted his father. In 1892 he took charge of the Womelsdorf parish where he served until 1901. He also served New Ringgold 1907-12, Freemansburg, 1912-14, Weissport 1915-17, Noxen 1918-20, Herndon parish since 1920. He married Ida Ahrens in 1894. He has a daughter.



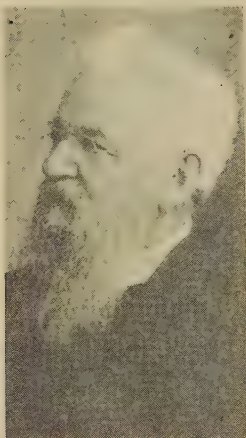
REV. G. S. KRESSLEY, Litt.D.

George Smith Kressley a son of Percival N. Kressley and Martha R. (Smith) was born at Maxatawny Pa. February 8, 1877. He received his preparatory training at the Normal School at Kutztown and entered Muhlenberg College graduating in 1898. He completed his three year course at the Philadelphia Seminary in 1901 and was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in the same year. He at once became Professor of Languages at the Normal School at Kutztown which position he held until 1917. Since then he has charge of the Foreign Language Department of the schools of Allentown, Pa. In 1910 he did graduate work in Goettingen University. In 1902 he married Anna R. Fretz. He has a daughter.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. J. J. KUENDIG, D.D.



John Jacob Kuendig a son of John Kuendig and Elizabeth (Hauser) was born in Zurich, Switzerland on December 6, 1830. He was educated in the best schools of his country. He graduated from the Mission Institute at Basel in 1858 having planned to go to the Mission field. Plans were changed and he came to America in 1858 entering the Gettysburg Seminary and by permission serving the German interests of Trinity Reading. He was ordained in 1860. He at once settled at Reading still serving the German portion of Trinity which now peaceably withdrew and established St. John's of which he became the pastor. During the earlier period of his ministry he also served several country churches. He married Emma S. Shalters in 1860. He was the pastor of St. John's until his death on June 17, 1917.

REV. E. E. LANDIS



Elbert Ephraim Landis a son of Wm. Rosenberger Landis and wife Ella Amanda, nee Campbell, was born in Bucks Co., October 26, 1886. He attended the public schools of his district until 1903. He then went to Perkiomen Seminary and graduated with the class of 1906.

From that institution he went to Muhlenberg College, graduating in 1910. In the fall of that year he entered the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy and completed his course in May, 1913. Shortly afterwards he was ordained by the Ev. Lutheran Ministerium of Penna. at Philadelphia.

Having accepted a call from the Rohrsertown and Chestnut Hill parish in Lancaster County, he served it until the close of 1914, when he received and accepted a call to the Leesport parish, which he is now serving.

May 22, 1913, he married Henrietta Kern Moyer.

He has two sons and three daughters.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. H. K. LANTZ

Henry K. Lantz a son of ex-senator Cyrus R. Lantz and Mary Ann nee Kauffman was born at Lebanon Pa. February 19, 1874. He received his early education in the public schools of Lebanon after which he entered Muhlenberg graduating in 1897. He took his theological course in the Lutheran Seminary at Chicago graduating in 1901 after which he was ordained by the Chicago Synod. He accepted the call to the pastorate of St. Paul's Church Frankfort, Ind. Later on he became the pastor of St. John's Church, Shiremans-town where he remained for 20 years. In 1922 he accepted the call of St. James' Church Reading of which he is now the pastor. He married Gertrude Elizabeth Weaver of Allentown. He has two sons.



REV. W. O. LAUB

William Oscar Laub a son of Lewis F. and Ellen Kurtz Laub, was born at Kreidersville, Pa., October 22, 1871. After attending the public schools of the vicinity during his boyhood days, he spent two years 1888-89, in the Academic Department of Muhlenberg. In the fall of the latter year, he entered the College proper and graduated in 1893. In the fall of that year he entered the Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy and graduated in 1896. He was then ordained by the Ministerium and immediately transferred to the Pittsburg Synod taking charge of the Freeport parish. He remained here until called to the newly formed West Reading parish in 1904. He resigned Yocum's Church on June 1, 1923.

December 31, 1896, he married Miss Cora M. Tidabock.

He has two sons and four daughters.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. J. W. LAZARUS



Jacob Wilson Lazarus a son of Rev. George M. Lazarus and Amanda C. (Dech) was born at Nazareth Pa. October 24, 1862. He prepared for college in the Muhlenberg Academy graduating from the college in 1882. He graduated from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1885. He was ordained the same year by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania and was then the supply-pastor Trinity, Catasauqua, Trinity West Bethlehem and at Cherryville. In 1887 he accepted a call to the Mt. Bethel parish which he served until 1904. Since then he has been the pastor of the Sinking Spring, Wernersville parish and regular supply at the Grand View Sanitarium. He married Gwennie M. Bytel in 1891. She died in 1902. He married Jeanette M. Blanck in 1909. He has a son.

REV. O. O. LEIDICH



Otis Orville Leidich a son of Peter M. Leidich and Eliza nee Raub was born in Williams Twp. Northampton Co. on March 8, 1870. He attended the public schools of his native place and then prepared for college at the Kiegelsville Academy and the Easton Academy. He graduated from the Gettysburg College in 1895 and from the Gettysburg Seminary in 1898 receiving ordination from the East Pennsylvania Synod the same year. He served at Palmyra 1898-1900, Manheim, 1900-06; East Petersburg, 1906-12; Landisville, 1912-14, Coatesville, 1914-16; Lebanon (Seventh Street), 1916-20; Reading (Stony Creek-Glenside), 1920 to date. In 1905 he married Fannie B. Minnich of Manheim. He has two sons and two daughters.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. A. J. LONG

Achilles Johnson Long a son of Ephraim and Hannah Long, was born at Claussville, Lehigh Co. Pa. on October 2, 1847. He received his early training in part at Washington Hall, Trappe in 1865, at Fort Edward Institute, N. J. in 1866 and in Muhlenberg Academy. He graduated from Muhlenberg College in 1871 and from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1874 and was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in the same year. He immediately took charge of the Stouchsburg parish and served it until his death. On June 4, 1876 he married Deborah J. Minnich. They have three daughters. He died at Stouchsburg while still in the active service on September 13, 1908.



REV. D. F. LONGACRE, B. D.

David Fenstermacher Longacre a son of Jacob Hoppes Longacre and Irene Deborah (Fenstermacher) was born at Weissport, Carbon Co., Pa., on May 7, 1897. He graduated from the Slatington High School in 1914. Work was continued in the Academic Department of Muhlenberg College, and the College from which he graduated in 1918. He served as Sgt. in U. S. Medical Corp until June 1919. Thereupon a course was taken in U. of Pa. and in fall of 1919 entered Philadelphia Seminary from which he graduated in 1922. Ordained by the Ministerium at Philadelphia on June 8, 1922 and immediately took up his work as pastor of the Stouchsburg parish which he is now serving.

On June 17, 1922 he married Clara Beulah Andrews of Slatington, Pa.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. R. B. LYNCH



Robert Benjamin Lynch a son of Thomas J. Lynch and Maria (Long) was born at Pennsburg, Pa. November 28, 1860. He attended the public schools and taught school for four terms then entering Muhlenberg College where he graduated in 1885. Graduating from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1888 after taking the regular course he was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in June of the same year. He then took charge of the congregations at Dublin and Lower Tinicum where he served 15 years until 1903. Since the latter year he has been the pastor of Trinity, Kutztown and Moselem. He married Maggie U. Jones in 1889. She died in 1904. In 1913 he married Anna S. Humbert, daughter of Rev. D. K. Humbert.

He has a son and two daughters by the first marriage.

He is at present the President of the Reading Conference.

REV. N. R. MELHORN, D.D.



Nathan Raymond Melhorn a son of Michael S. Melhorn and wife Martha (Ahlefeld) was born at Ada, Ohio, Dec. 23, 1871. He is a farmer's son. He attended the schools of the neighborhood until of sufficient age to begin his classical studies. He then entered the Northern University of Ohio. Having completed his course he graduated with honor. After that he taught school for two years. He was then offered a position on the staff of the University. This position he held for two years. In 1894 he entered the Philadelphia Seminary graduating in 1897. He was ordained the same year by the Ministerium in Trinity Church, Lancaster. He at once took charge of the church of the Incarnation, Philadelphia, then a mission. He served this congregation between sixteen and seventeen years.

In the spring of 1914, he received and accepted a call from Trinity Church, Reading, which he served until 1918. He then returned as pastor to his former church and served until 1922 when he became the Editor of "The Lutheran."

He married Florence L. Richmond of Lima Ohio in 1901.

He has three sons.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. G. F. MILLER

George Frederic Miller a son of George Miller and wife Sarah, was born near Swamp church, Montgomery county, April 27, 1824.

He entered the University of Penna., and graduated from it in 1844. He then took a theological course at Princeton Seminary.

He was licensed June 20, 1848, and ordained May 29, 1850. He at once became the assistant of his uncle, Conrad, devoting his attention particularly to Pottstown and Amityville. In August he also took charge of the English interest at Pottstown. During 1848 he became pastor of Christ, (Oley), and in 1849, of Friedensburg. In 1853 he gave up Oley and Friedensburg and accepted a call from Limerick. In 1859 a separate English congregation was organized at Pottstown. During this year the cornerstone of the Church of the Transfiguration was laid. It was dedicated in 1860.

Rev. Miller now gave up the German congregation, but continued to serve the English until 1868. He then gave up Pottstown, retaining Amityville and Limerick until 1872.

From 1869-72, he was principal of the Hill School at Pottstown. In 1872 he became Professor of German at Muhlenberg College and retained the position until 1877. In 1878 he took charge of a mission field in New Jersey and served it until his death in 1884.

REV. L. R. MILLER

Lawrence Renninger Miller a son of Henry J. Miller and Leah Amanda, nee Renninger was born December 4, 1873, in Douglass Township, Montgomery County. He was brought up on the farm. He entered Perkiomen Seminary in the spring of 1899, graduating in 1900.

In the fall of that year he entered Muhlenberg College and graduated in 1904. He entered the Philadelphia Seminary and graduated in 1907. He was then ordained by the Ministerium in St. James' Church, Reading at its annual convention. Having accepted a call from the two congregations at Rohrerstown and Chestnut Hill, Lancaster Co., he served that field until Dec. 1912, when he was called to the Centreport parish which he is now serving.

In 1895 he married Ella Riegner. She died in 1919. In 1921 he married Mary Schlappig. By the first marriage he has two sons and three daughters and by the second marriage a son.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. O. D. MILLER



Oscar Daniel Miller a son of Daniel H. Miller and Pauline (Herbster) was born at Lyon Valley, Pa. August 21, 1857. He prepared for college at the Northwestern University Watertown, Wis. 1874-75 entering Muhlenberg College in 1877 and graduating in 1881. He took the regular course in the Philadelphia Seminary graduating in 1884 and being ordained in the same year. He at once took charge of the Hamburg parish which he served for 12 years until 1896. He then moved to Ohio where he served at Tuscarawas 1897-1901: Zelienople, Pa. 1901-1911. He was first married in 1884. Sometime after the death of his first wife he was again married in 1894. He died at Allentown January 11, 1911. A son and daughter were born.

REV. W. H. MYERS



William Henry Myers a son of Washington Myers and Susan (Garman) was born at Fredericksburg, Pa. October 22, 1851. He learned the trade of tailoring and then pursued his studies at Palatinate College Myerstown before entering Muhlenberg College in 1871. He graduated from the College in 1873 and from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1876 receiving ordination the same year. He was pastor at North Wales for a short time and then accepted a call to become the Assistant Pastor at Trinity Reading where he was given charge of the special work for which he was called viz: that of organising a congregation in connection with the chapel which had been built on S. 11th St. Grace church organized by him in 1881 has been his only field of labor since 1878. In 1879 he married Mary R. Kutz.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. E. P. PFATTEICHER, D.D.

Ernst Philip Pfatteicher a son of Rev. Philip Pfatteicher and Emma (Spaeth) was born at Easton Pa. July 28, 1874. He received his preparatory training at Trach's Academy, Easton, the Real Schule, Esslingen, Wuertemburg Germany and the Easton High School. He graduated at Lafayette College in 1895, Philadelphia Seminary 1898 and was ordained June 6th. 1898 by the Ministerium of Penna. He at once became the assistant to Dr. Schmauk of Salem Church Lebanon, Pa. In 1901 he accepted a call to Trinity, Kutztown. In 1902 he went to Trinity, Norristown. From 1907 to 1918 he was pastor of Holy Communion, Philadelphia. Since 1918 he is pastor of Trinity, Reading. He has done graduate work at Lafayette College, at the University of Erlangen, and at the University of Pa. In 1905 he married Helen Jacoby. He has a son and a daughter.



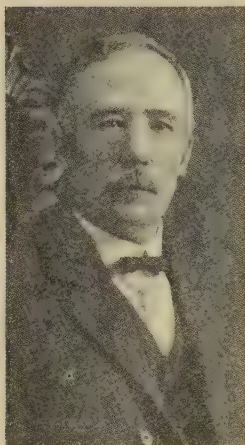
REV. O. E. PFLUEGER

Oscar Erwin Pflueger a son of James L. Pflueger and Elizabeth (Keim) was born at Schoenersville Northampton Co. on March 11, 1861. He was educated at Muhlenberg College graduating in 1884 and then entered the Philadelphia Seminary from which he graduated in 1887. He was ordained the same year by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. He was pastor of the Beavertown Parish 1887-89, Lykens Valley parish, 1889-1902, Womelsdorf parish, 1902-1913. He married Elmira C. Leopold in 1887. He died at Womelsdorf July 22, 1913. He was secretary of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania at the time of his death and for some time previous.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. J. H. RAKER, D. D.



John Henry Raker a son of Conrad Hoffman Raker and Susannah (Dornsife) was born at Raker Pa. on Jan. 1, 1863. After completing his public school education he taught for two years and prepared for college in the Academic Department of Muhlenberg College graduating from the College in 1889. He did some missionary work in the west and then completed his theological training at the Philadelphia Seminary graduating in 1892. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pa. at Trinity Reading May 29, 1892. Pastor of St. John's Pen Argyl 1892-1898, Trinity, Lebanon 1898-1900, Superintendent, Tipton Orphans' Home 1900-1907, Grace, Allentown 1907-1912, Founder and superintendent of Good Shepherd Home Allentown, Pa. 1908 to present time. He married Estella Weiser in 1899.

He has two sons and two daughters.

REV. H. B. RITTER



Horace Bean Ritter a son of Dr. Nathaniel F. Ritter and Anna Louisa, nee Bean, was born Aug. 10, 1874, at Breinigsville, Lehigh Co., Pa. He was brought up on the farm, attended the public schools of the district and became a school teacher. He attended Keystone State Normal School at Kutztown, graduating in 1895. He entered Muhlenberg College in 1900 and graduated in 1904. Then he entered the Philadelphia Seminary and after the usual three year course graduated in 1907. Was ordained by the Ev. Luth. Ministerium of Penna., in St. James' Church, Reading, May, 27, 1907.

Having accepted a call to the Hellertown parish in the Allentown Conference, he entered upon his duty as pastor June 1, 1907.

Thence he was called to the Amityville parish in the Reading Conf. and entered upon his duties as pastor, August 15, 1915.

July 14, 1904, he married Miss Jennie L. Kocher, Allentown, Pa.

He has two sons and a daughter.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. I. ROELLER

Isaac Roeller a son of Rev. John G. Roeller was born April 25, 1807 in Montgomery Co. He secured his classical training at Germantown. He studied theology under Dr. J. Miller at New Hanover. He was licensed at Lancaster in 1829 and was ordained at the same place in 1830. He at once took charge of the Longswamp and five other congregations. He moved to Kutztown in 1833 and accepted two additional congregations. He now had Moselem, Mertztown, Fleetwood, Longswamp, Kutztown, Huff's Fogelsville, and Stony Point. This was his first and only field. He retired in 1861 to permit Rev. B. E. Kramlich to become his successor. He died at Kutztown Nov. 10, 1897.



REV. F. J. F. SCHANTZ, D.D.

Franklin J. Fogel Schantz a son of Jacob Schantz and Sarah Fogel was born at Schantz's Mill Lehigh Co. January 8, 1836. He attended the Allentown Seminary 1848-50 and the Allentown Collegiate Institute 1850-53. He entered Franklin and Marshall College during the latter year and graduated in 1855. He studied theology at Gettysburg 1855-57 and was licensed by the W. Pennsylvania Synod in 1857. He was received into the Ministerium of Pennsylvania for ordination in 1858. From Oct. 1857 to Jan. 1858 he supplied Trinity Reading and was then elected pastor and remained until 1861. He had charge of Catasauqua from 1861 to 1866. He also acted as financial agent of the Philadelphia Seminary 1865-66. He took charge of Myerstown in 1867 supplying Jonestown in connection with it for almost a score of years while he also served Mt. Aetna during the entire period. He was married to Cordelia S. Saeger in 1868. He died January 19, 1907 at Myerstown, while still the pastor of Myerstown and Mt. Aetna. He was president of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania 1901-04.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. O. S. SCHEIRER



Oscar Sylvester Scheirer a son of Adam Scheirer and Caroline (Bortz) was born in Egypt Lehigh Co., May 17, 1862. He attended the Normal School at Kutztown and entered Muhlenberg College in 1884 and graduated in 1888. He took the usual course at the Philadelphia Seminary graduating in 1891. He was ordained the same year and immediately became the pastor of the Lickdale or Walmers parish in Lebanon County which he served until 1894. Beavertown parish 1894-96, Grimsville parish, 1896-1914, Zion's Girardville, 1914-18, Christ, Freemansburg, 1918 to the present time. He married Annie L. Kuhns on May 28, 1891.

He has two daughters.

REV. J. O. SCHLENKER



James Oliver Schlenker a son of Reuben and Annie (Fisher) Schlenker, was born June 10, 1861, in Greenwich Twp., Berks Co. He spent his early years on the farm, attending the public schools of the district. His education preparatory to college and seminary, he received at the Keystone State Normal School, Kutztown, and Perkiomen Seminary. In 1879, he entered Muhlenberg College and graduated 1883. In the fall of the latter year he entered the Philadelphia Seminary, graduating 1886. He was ordained the same year June 22nd at Christ Church, Easton.

Having received and accepted a call to Zion, Tamaqua, he served that congregation four years. Then he was called to Christ Church, Hazleton, where he spent about twenty years, when he became Secretary of the Slav Mission Board, 1911-1914.

Having accepted a call from the Grimsville parish, he entered upon his duties as their pastor November 1, 1914.

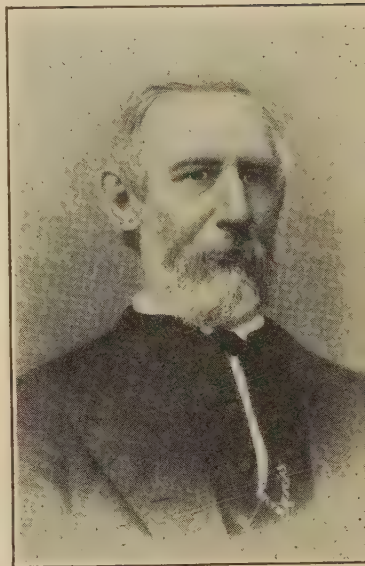
He married Mary Kolb in 1887. A daughter was born.

He married Katherine Kohlhaas in 1911. A son was born.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. B. M. SCHMUCKER, D. D.

Beale Melanchthon Schmucker a son of Prof. S. S. Schmucker D.D. and wife nee Steenberg was born August 26, 1827. He graduated at Gettysburg College in 1844. After completing his course at the Gettysburg Seminary he was licensed by the W. Pennsylvania Synod in 1847 and ordained by the Maryland Synod in 1848. He served at Martinsburg Va. and Shephardstown Pa. 1848-51. On account of trouble with his voice he was temporarily at his father's home until 1852 when he accepted a call to Allentown where he organized St. John's Church and served it until 1862. He was pastor of St. John's Easton 1862-67, St. James' Reading, 1867-81, Transfiguration Pottstown, 1881-88. In 1860 he married Christiana M. Pretz of Allentown. Two sons were born. He died at Pottstown October 15, 1888.



REV. C. E. SCHULZE

Christopher Emanuel Schulze, a son of John Andrew and Amelia Schulze was born in Germany on January 25, 1740. He was ordained at the age of 25 years and came to America shortly afterwards landing at Philadelphia in October, 1765. He was welcomed by Muhlenberg and immediately elected second pastor of the congregation at Philadelphia. After five years' service he accepted a call from the Tulpehocken parish and moved to Stouchsburg. In 1776 he married Eve Elizabeth, a daughter of Rev. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. He was as prominent as the parish he served having been President of the Ministerium for 7 years between 1781 and 1794. He also held the honored office of Senior in the Ministerium for 13 years prior to his death which occurred at Stouchsburg, March 9, 1809. His pastoral activities during the 39 years of his active ministry, covered the critical period of the Revolutionary War, consisted in organizing congregations, building churches and administering to the spiritual wants of many people scattered over a wide territory. He is buried at Stouchsburg. See page 494.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. J. A. M. SCHULTZE, Governor

John Andrew Melchior Schultze a son of Rev. Christopher Emanuel Schultze and Eve Elizabeth (Muhlenberg) was born at Stouchsburg July 19, 1775. His grandfather Henry Melchior Muhlenberg was one of his sponsors. He studied theology under his uncle Rev. H. E. Muhlenberg of Lancaster and under another uncle Dr. Kunze of New York. Entered the ministry in 1796 and served as assistant to his father in the Stouchsburg parish until 1804. Protracted attacks of reumatism compelled him to relinquish his pastoral labors. After serving several terms as legislator and filling other state offices he was elected by a large majority to be the governor of Pennsylvania in 1823. He was reelected in 1829 when his opponent received only 1000 votes, less than two per cent. He died at Lancaster in 1852.

See
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REV. G. S. SEAMAN

George Schock Seaman a son of Solomon Seaman and Elizabeth (Schock) was born near Hamburg May 20, 1856. Preliminary education was sought in the public schools and the Hamburg High School. He entered Muhlenberg College in 1875 graduating in 1879. The same year he entered the Philadelphia Seminary completing the regular course in 1882. He was ordained the same year and at once took charge of the church at Elizabethtown, Pa. 1882-89, pastor, Halifax N. S. 1916, Berwick, 1916-Adamsburg, Pa. 1889-96, Homestead, Pa. 1896-1904, Leesport, Pa. 1904-14, supply 17, Wildwood N. J. 1917-18, Kimberton, 1919 to present time. He was Mission Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Synod 1901-03. He married Emily S. Roth in 1882. One son and three daughters were born.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. J. C. SEEGERS D.D.

John Conrad Seegers a son of John Conrad Seegers and Mary D. (Schroeder) was born at Columbia S. C. October 6, 1867. He graduated at Newberry College in 1888 and from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1891 being ordained by the Holston Synod in that year. He was pastor of First Church Richmond Va. 1891-94, Church of the Redeemer, Albany N. Y. 1895-1901, St. John's Easton, 1901-1911. Trinity, Reading, 1911-14, St. Paul's Wilmington N. C. 1918-21. He was professor of Practical Theology in Southern Seminary at Columbia S. C. from 1914-18 and in 1921 was elected Professor of Homiletics and Pastoral Theology at the Philadelphia Seminary. He is a member of the Reading Conference. He married May E. Ide of Richmond Va. in 1893. He is the father of four sons and four daughters.



REV. W. B. SMITH, Ph. D.

William Benjamin Smith was born April 17, 1878, at Shoemakersville, Berks Co., Pa. a son of Geo. L. and Caroline L., (nee Lo Smith. In early youth he attended the public schools of Shoemakersville, also those of Reading and Philadelphia. He spent the better part of his youth and young manhood in Reading. Later he attended the Reading Academy, also the Reading Business College. For some time he was engaged in teaching school.

He entered Susquehanna University, September 21, 1906, and graduated June 16, 1910. He then entered the Theological department of the same institution, graduating June 11, 1913.

He was ordained at Danville, May 4, 1913, by the Susquehanna Synod. He then took charge of the Ev. Lutheran Church at Steelton, June 12, 1913, where he served until June 4, 1916, when he removed to Reading, having received a call from St. Peter's where he is serving at present.

August 23, 1904 he married Miss Sarah Marie Engel.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

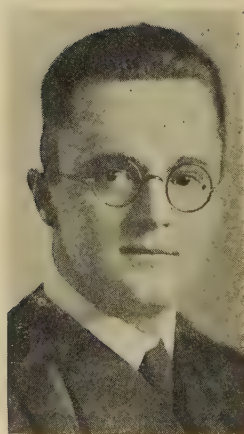
REV. B. S. SMOLL



Beneville Smith Smoll a son of Charles and Rachel Smoll was born in New Hanover Twp. Montgomery Co. December 4, 1832. He attended Frederick Institute where he secured his literary training. He was engaged in business in Philadelphia for several years. In 1867 he moved to a farm in Montgomery County. The desire of his childhood to become a minister now became stronger than ever and he entered the Philadelphia Seminary as a hospitant in 1872. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1874. He was pastor at Grimsville, 1874-96. He also served a number of other congregations besides those of this parish during his pastorate here. He was pastor of the Lickdale Parish Lebanon Co. 1896-1900.

He married Katie N. Welker in 1860. Thirteen children were born including a son now in the ministry. He married Amelia S. Dietrich in 1885. Seven children were born. He died on April 23, 1900.

REV. C. C. SNYDER, B.D.



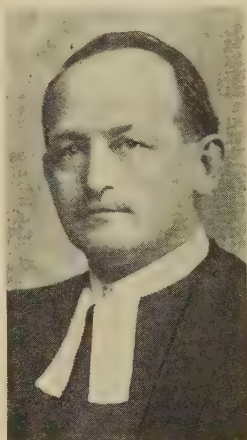
Corson Cressman Snyder a son of Edwin and Emma Snyder was born at Harleysville, Pa. on Dec. 20, 1892. After a preliminary training in the public schools and other preparatory school work he entered Muhlenberg College from which he graduated in 1917. He graduated from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1920 and was ordained by the Ministerium of Pa. at its meeting in Wilkes-Barre Pa. on June 3, 1920. He at once became the pastor of the newly formed Shillington parish which he is now serving.

In 1920 he was married to Lucy Willenbecker of Allentown, Pa. He has a daughter.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. J. F. SNYDER

John Franklin Snyder a son of Jacob and Sarah J. (Kuntsle) Snyder was born at Kresgeville, Pa., on Oct. 20, 1874. He received his early training in public and private schools of his native place. He taught school for some time and then entered Muhlenberg College graduating in 1896. He graduated from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1899 and was ordained by the Ministerium of Pa. in Trinity, Reading on May 29, of the same year. He was pastor at East Bangor 1899-1902 when he accepted a call to become the assistant pastor at Trinity Reading, having charge of the two missions Faith and Peace. He resigned in 1918 and in 1919 became the pastor at Weissport, Pa. where he is now serving.



REV. G. F. SPIEKER, D. D., LL. D.

George Frederick Spieker a son of Herman H. Spieker and Margaret E. (Dorges) was born at Elk Ridge Landing, Md., on November 17, 1844. He graduated from Baltimore City College in 1863, attended Gettysburg Seminary 1863-65 and graduated from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1867 and was at once ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania. He was pastor of the Kutztown parish 1867-83, St. Michael's Allentown, 1883-94. He was then elected Professor of Church History and Old Testament Theology and Introduction at the Philadelphia Seminary holding this position until his death. He was also Professor of German at Gettysburg College, 1864-66, German Professor, Normal School Kutztown, 1867-68, Hebrew Professor at Muhlenberg College 1887-94. He married Hannah Hoch in 1869. Three sons and a daughter were born. One son was a pastor. He died at Philadelphia on September 7, 1913.



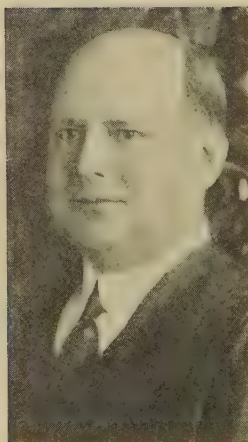
LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. L. B. STERNER



Leidy Benner Sterner a son of William and Susanna (Benner) Sterner was born Oct. 31, 1877 in Bucks Co. He received his early training in the public schools and then went to Muhlenberg College from which he graduated in 1906. He graduated from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1909 and was ordained by the Ministerium of Penna. in the Church of the Holy Communion, Phila. on June 7, 1909. He was pastor of the Audenried-Beaver Meadow parish from 1909 to 1913, of the Weissport Pa. parish from 1913 to 1914, of the North Water Gap parish from 1915 to 1919 and of the Herndon Pa. parish from 1919 to 1921. Since 1921 he has been residing in Reading and is a member of the Reading Conference by virtue of his residence here and is doing local supply work. In 1913 he married Emma A. Schutter of Reading. He has a son.

REV. M. H. STETTLER



Marvin Harold Stettler a son of Harrison D. and Medina (Baer) Stettler was born at Allentown, Pa. on Nov. 17, 1875. He entered the academic department of Muhlenberg College in 1892 and graduated from the college proper in 1896. He graduated from the Philadelphia Seminary in 1899 and was ordained in Trinity Reading on May 29 of the same year by the Ministerium of Pa. The Board of Missions of the synod called him to take charge of St. Paul's mission in Reading and other missions at Mohnton, Shillington and Oakbrook. These missions have become identified with other pastoral charges while he has continued to serve St. Paul's to the present time.

In 1909 he married Naomi A. Gougler. He has a son and two daughters.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. D. D. TREXLER

Daniel Dietrich Trexler a son of Daniel and Anna (Dietrich) Trexler was born in Greenwich Twn. Berks Co. Pa. on November 29, 1842. In 1860 he went to Union county to attend a private school. In 1861 he entered Freeland Seminary now Ursinus College. He then taught school and in 1864 resumed his studies at Freeland Seminary. In 1865 he entered the Philadelphia Seminary and graduated in 1868. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Penna. in St. Mark's, Philadelphia, on June 10, 1868. Soon thereafter he took charge of the Bernville parish which he served until his death. He served the following churches: Frieden's Bernville, 1868-1876, Christ Ch. Tulpehocken, 1868-1878, N. Heidelberg, 1868-1883, Salem, Millersburg, and Rehrrsburg Union, 1868-1914; Shartlesville, 1874-1914; Lenhartsville, 1880-1914. Soon after he entered the ministry he married Agnes Amanda Geiss. He died at Bernville Pa. on May 24, 1914.

He has two sons in the ministry.



REV. M. VALENTINE, D. D.

Milton Valentine a son of Jacob and Rebecca Valentine was born near Uniontown Maryland January 1, 1825. He received his preparatory training at Taneytown, Md. and entered Gettysburg College in 1846 graduating in 1850. He tutored and studied theology at Gettysburg 1850-52 and was then licensed as a minister. He supplied Winchester Va. 1852-53; engaged in missionary work at Pittsburg 1853-54; pastor at Greensburg, 1854-55; principal of Institute at Middletown, Pa. 1855-59 while suffering with throat trouble; pastor St. Matthew's, Reading 1859-66; professor at Gettysburg College 1866-1868; President of College, 1868-1884; Seminary Professor at Gettysburg 1884-1903 continuing as Professor Emeritus until his death. He married Margaret G. Galt of Taneytown, Md., in 1855. He died February 7, 1906.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. H. W. WARMKESSEL



Henry William Warmkessel a son of Thomas Warmkessel and Mary Ann (Merkel) was born in Maxatawny Twp. May 22, 1862. He received his preparatory training in the Normal School at Kutztown and entered Muhlenberg College in 1883 graduating in 1886. He then entered the Philadelphia Seminary and graduated in 1889. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in June of the same year. For a time he was the assistant of the Rev. D. K. Humbert in the Bowers parish. He was pastor at Coopersburg, Pa. for the year 1890-91. From 1891-98 he was pastor of Faith and Peace Reading; Hope, Reading, St. Joseph's Hill Church, and St. Paul's, Lobachsville, 1891 to the present time.

He married Mrs. E. Irene Schalkof Moyer.

REV. A. M. WEBER



Adam Monroe Weber a son of John Weber and Salesa (Daniels) was born at Bernville, Pa., on March 30, 1863. By public and private schooling he prepared for Muhlenberg College which he entered in 1881 graduating in 1885. After taking the regular three year Course at the Philadelphia Seminary he graduated in 1888 and was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in the same year. He took charge of the English Mission at Newark N. J. in 1889. In 1890 he moved to Mt. Joy and remained pastor there until 1893. He then went to Boyertown where he has since been the pastor of St. John's Church. He married Alma M. Rentschler in 1883. Five sons and five daughters were born. One son is in the ministry.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. W. E. WENNER

Wesley Edgar Wenner a son of Allen Samuel and Rose Jane (Koch) Wenner was born at Litzenberg, Pa. on April 21, 1874. He graduated from Muhlenberg College with the class of 1898 and from the Philadelphia Seminary with the class of 1901. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pa. in 1901. He was pastor at Danville Pa. from 1902 to 1904 when he accepted a call to the church at Kimberton Pa. where he remained until 1908. He then became the pastor of the Mt. Bethel, Pa. parish and served there until 1920 when he accepted a call to the Sassamansville-Niantic parish of the Norristown Conference in connection with which he is serving the congregation at Bechtelsville Berks Co. He married Kate Janette Heiberger in 1903.

He has a daughter.



REV. A. E. YOUSE

Alvin Edward Youse a son of Wm. N. Youse, and Sarah, nee Keller was born May 2, 1876, at New Jerusalem, Rockland Twp., Berks Co. His early years were spent on the farm. He attended the public school of the place. Afterwards he attended the Keystone Normal School at Kutztown and graduated there. He then spent five years in teaching in the schools of Berks and Northampton. In the year 1900 he graduated at Perkiomen Seminary. Then he went to Muhlenberg College and graduated in 1903. He entered the Philadelphia Seminary and graduated in 1906. He was ordained June 11th of the same year in St. John's, Race St., Philadelphia.

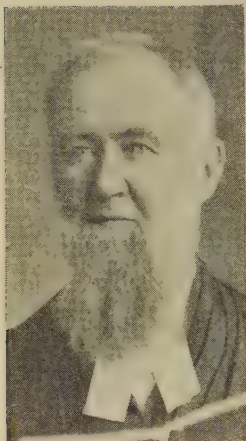
He then went to Winnipeg, Canada, to take charge of the English Lutheran Mission at that place. Having served that field for one year he accepted a call to Myerstown, Lebanon Co., Pa. He is serving Frieden's, Myerstown: St. John's, Mt. Aetna, Berks Co., and St. Paul's, Richland, lately organized by himself.

June, 1906, he married Lizzie W. Barto of Rockland Township. They have three sons and a daughter.



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

REV. B. D. ZWEIZIG



Benjamin Dunkelberger Zweizig a son of John Zweizig and Catharine (Dunkelberger) was born at Hamburg, Pa. on February 6, 1833. He received his preparatory training in Gettysburg College Academy graduating from the college in 1856. He taught school while studying theology under Rev. R. A. M. Keller. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pennsylvania in 1859. From 1857 to 1864 he assisted Rev. Keller. In 1859 he took charge of Gernant's church, in 1860 of Maidencreek, Blandon, in 1867 of Leesport, in 1864 of Sinking Spring, in 1861 of Schwartzwald and Hinnershitz. He also served Plow, Gouglersville, Emanuel's Hamburg and St. John's Hamburg during short periods. In 1863 he took charge of Epler's and Belleman's. About 1867 he also took charge of St. Michael's. He also served Yocum's for about thirty years. At the time of his death he was still the pastor of seven of the above churches. He married Mary Ann Shollenberger in 1856. He died at Reading on September 9, 1903. A son entered the ministry, another entered the profession of law. Two daughters also survive.

REV. M. L. ZWEIZIG, D.D.



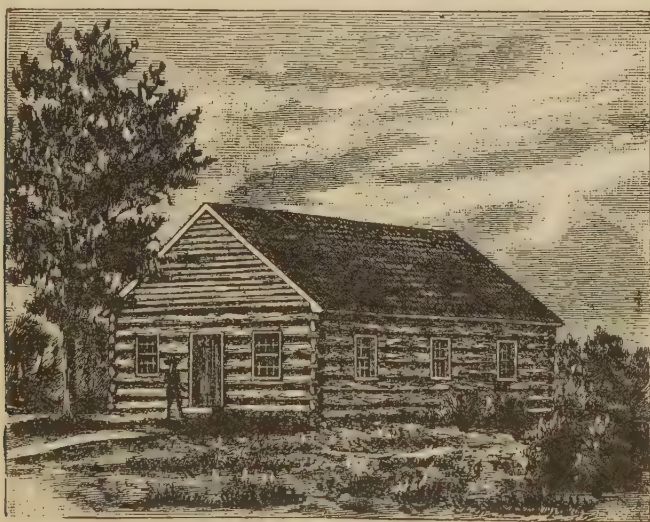
Martin Luther Zweizig a son of Rev. B. D. Zweizig and his wife Mary Ann Roi (Shollenberger) was born at Hamburg Pa. Oct. 17, 1857. He received his preparatory training in the public schools of Reading. He entered Muhlenberg College in 1874 and graduated in 1877. He went to the Philadelphia Seminary and graduated there in 1880. He was ordained by the Ministerium of Pa. in the Church of the Transfiguration, Pottstown, Pa. on June 13, 1881. He was pastor of Trinity Scranton, 1882-1887 then spent a year in traveling in Europe. In 1889 he was called by the Home Mission Board of the General Council to take up work in Portland, Oregon, where he organized St. James congregation. In 1901 after another short trip to Europe he accepted the call of the church at Leechburg, Pa., where he served until 1909 when he became pastor of St. James' Reading. In 1922 he resigned on account of illness and was elected Pastor Emeritus. On June 12, 1901 he married Jane Ritchie McFadden of Indiana, Pa.

He has a daughter.

THE MOLATTON CHURCH (DOUGLASSVILLE)

IN 1693, the Swedes, who had settled at Molatton (Douglassville) and vicinity, petitioned John Thelim, P. M. at Joetheborg for two ministers and also for certain religious books. They wrote: "We live in great amity with the Indians who have not done us any harm for years." Archbishop Euebilius sent them books and ministers.

One of these ministers was Rev. Andreas Rudman of Gestricia. He arrived June 24, 1697.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (SWEDISH) IN BERKS COUNTY

A log house was erected soon afterward. It stood near the eastern line of St. Gabriel's church property, Douglassville, about 20 paces south of the old turnpike. This was the original 'Swedes' Church. It was 24 by 30 feet, and one story high. The door faced east. This building was the first house of worship within the present limits of Berks County, and it was used for this and for school purposes for many years. (1831?)

When William Penn came to Pennsylvania the second time (1699-1700), he offered the Swedes 10,000 acres of land up the river where they might all have more room and

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

live together. The annual rental was 100 bushels of wheat. On October 2, 1701, Rudman was authorized to take up these 10,000 acres, virtually more and including the present Amity Township. He gave the tract to his fellow Swedes; and, as each wanted to have his portion along the Schuylkill in order to fish, the tract was cut into strips by parallel roads about a mile apart and running north and south from the river to the old Swamp road.

Rudman, as the first provost of the Swedes on the Delaware and pastor at Wicaco besides suffering from pulmonary troubles, was unable to give Molatton any further attention.

Andrew Sandel, Swedish provost, had come to America upon the earnest appeal of his intimate friend Rudman. Sandel now served in Philadelphia and attended to the religious needs of Molatton as much as possible until 1719, when he returned to Sweden.

On March 24, 1719, a meeting from all parts of the Wicaco congregation was held to arrange for the services and support of two pastors, Rev. Samuel Hesselius and Rev. Jonas Lidman. Many from Manathania (Manatawny) and Molatton were present. These represented that they always held to the Wicaco congregation, contributed their just share to buildings and toward the support of the minister; and, therefore, they prayed to have Hesselius live among them.

In 1720, Hesselius came and lived at Douglassville. He was the first Lutheran pastor that resided in Amity Township, and the first pastor of any kind that resided permanently in the present Berks County. (Rev. J. W. Early).

In October, 1723, Hesselius complained that the hearers were few and that they did not support him properly. Thereafter Lidman and Eneberg served as supplies until Rev. Gabriel Falk became pastor of Wicaco and Molatton in 1733.

In 1735, Hesselius removed to Molatton, and officiated as pastor there during the greater part of the next ten years. In the beginning of his pastorate, he succeeded in erecting a church which was begun in 1736 and completed in 1737. It was built of logs. The land had been obtained from Andrew Robeson.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

In 1742, the Moravians endeavored to get possession of the church. The same year, Zinzendorf brought a number of co-laborers to Pennsylvania, and endeavored to secure members and support from all churches. It is related that a young Swede was sent to Molatton; and, having won over some Swedish, English, Irish and Germans, tried with their help to obtain possession of the church. Services were announced by him on a certain day. On that day the regular pastor (Falk) early went to church and awaited the arrival of the emissary, who finally arrived after the people had assembled. Falk, an old man, left the pulpit to meet him and said,—“You enter the sheepfold as a thief and murderer,” and then gave him a heavy blow on the mouth. The members separated them before it came to a fight. In the end, the Moravians obtained a foothold during the absence of Falk; but they were not to remain in the field for long. Falk left in 1745, and the congregation had no pastor for seven years.

The third and last Swedish resident pastor was John Abram Lindenius, who was sent by Acrelius near the close of 1752. He resided at Molatton until 1755. During the 7 years before Lindenius came and after he left, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg preached frequently. (See St. Paul's, Amityville).

THE CHURCH IN CUMRU

CONCERNING this church Rev. Early published the following: “The little church as we are told, standing on the right bank of the Wyomissing, was not more than one-third of a mile from the road leading from Sinking Spring to Shillington and only a narrow field's breadth from the road leading from the Five-Mile House along the Wyomissing to Reading. The existence of a burying ground with more than one hundred graves shows clearly that it was not a family cemetery. The location is about equally distant from the two Welsh Baptist Churches, the one located at Sinking Spring and the other at Wyomissing. It is supposed by some to have been an Episcopal Church but from the will of David Jones (where the Luth-

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

eran Church is specifically named) and from the fact that the tombstones bear the names of German settlers and other corroborating evidence such as the positive location from the above named will and succeeding deeds it is proven as clear as it can well be made that an Episcopal Church was established at this point about 1730-1733. Also that soon after its organization because of the predominance of the Germans they were admitted to a right and share in the church; that thirty or forty years after its establishment this right is publicly acknowledged in legal documents. The information of the oldest residents obtained from their forefathers confirms the tradition that this Lutheran Congregation was in existence until late in the eighteenth or early in the nineteenth century."

See Reading Times October 28, 1907.

EMANUEL'S CHURCH, HAMBURG

THIS union church was built about 1850. It was composed of people who withdrew from St. John's on account of the language question. Only English was used in its services. A brick building was erected a few squares north of the old St. John's Church. The building committee consisted of Dr. John Seiberling, John Lubary, William E. Shollenberger, Jacob Geiger, Reuben Lins, George Shollenberger and Daniel Kern. The building cost about \$11,000.00

The corner-stone was laid June 12, 1854, by Candidate Scheide who was succeeded in the pastorate by Rev. F. A. M. Keller who served until his death and was succeeded by Rev. B. D. Zweizig who served until it ceased to exist.

On July 5, 1887 a tornado wrecked the building. At its greatest strength this union church once had a combined membership of 250. The membership gradually dwindled and with the misfortune of having their building destroyed it was possible to keep the flock together for only a short time when the property was sold to the Evangelicals.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

FRIEDEN'S, WICKLEIN'S, ROBESON TOWNSHIP

THIS church, situated between one and two miles west of St. John's, Gibraltar, was built in 1866. The land was donated by David Wicklein, a relative of Rev. Jacob F. Wicklein, styled an independent Lutheran preacher for whose special benefit the church is said to have been built. Because of the fact that this church or congregation, was independent of all synodical connection, there is no available data as to its history. The church was originally Lutheran, then Union and afterwards Reformed.

The Tulpehocken Confusion

A history of the Lutherans pertaining to the Tulpehocken region, southwestern portion of Berks County, would not be complete without a sketch of the disturbances in the religious affairs of that region during the years 1734 to 1743 in connection with the Tulpehocken Lutheran (Reed's) congregation.

A description of these disturbances was published by the Moravians in a document of some length, in German (printed at Bethlehem, Pa.), entitled "Die Confusion von Tulpehocken", (The Tulpehocken Confusion), which has been translated by Rev. J. W. Early. It is dated "Tulpehocken, Aug. 11, 1742," and signed "The Deacons of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation at Tulpehocken". The document appears to have been published in answer to a letter, printed in English, entitled "A Protestation of the Members of the Protestant Lutheran and Reformed Religions—about the bad Commotion which happened on Sunday the 18th of July, 1742".

The correctness of the document is attested to by Conrad Weiser as follows (translation):

"In the year 1742, August 16th, a document called "Die Confusion von Tulpehocken", in which the intrigues of **Caspar Stiever** in regard to the Lutheran Church at TULPEHOCKEN are described, was placed in my hands. I testify, according to my best knowledge and belief, having been a disinterested looker on since the time when these disturbances began, that everything referring to **Stiever** occurred as described in the document named, and that the whole narrative contained in the document is true."

Considerable information on the subject is also found in the Moravian Records at Bethlehem, Pa., and in "Hallische Nachrichten", as given in "The Lutheran Church in Pennsylvania, 1639-1800", by Rev. Theo. E. Schmauk, D. D.

The first settlers of the Tulpehocken region were emigrants from the Schoharie settlements of the Province

of New York. Some 30 families came in the year 1723; others followed in the next few years. Conrad Weiser, wife and four children arrived in 1729. These daring and sturdy pioneers were mostly Lutherans with a few Reformed. They had been among the German emigrants, (farmers, vine dressers, etc.) that landed at New York in 1710 to settle on the Hudson and Mohawk rivers, having about two years previously come to England with that object in view at the solicitation of Queen Anne. Instead of being allowed to follow their occupations, they were compelled to cut down trees, burn tar, and raise hemp for the use of the English Government. In 1712 and 1713 they, however, broke away from this industrial oppression and, after many privations, established themselves in the beautiful Schoharie Valley. But there, too, they were not allowed to reap the rewards of their labors and were threatened with eviction.

After the death, in 1718 or 1719, of Rev. Joshua Kocherthal, the first Lutheran pastor in Schoharie, it appears that Bernard van (or von) Dieren (also Duehren, Dueren, Doeren, or Thieren), who claimed to have been ordained by the Court Preacher Boehme in London, served the Lutherans of Schoharie. He was a pietist Lutheran and with reference to the Tulpehocken settlers, through him, it is said, "most of the people had been convicted of their sin and made restless in their hearts while they lived in Schoharie".

Van Dieren had promised to accompany the emigrants from Schoharie to Tulpehocken and to serve them as pastor. He, however, failed to carry out the promise but for several years he appears to have made visits once or twice a year to administer the Lord's Supper and to perform baptisms.

Of Conrad Weiser's four children born in Schoharie, two were baptized, in 1722 and 1728, by Van Dieren, and one, in 1727, by W. C. Berkenmeyer, a Lutheran preacher who antagonized Van Dieren in various ways, and who probably also visited Tulpehocken a few times.

It appears, therefore, that these early Lutheran Tulpehocken settlers, including Conrad Weiser, were of the

pietist type; that they came as a more or less organized body and not as mere individuals; and that they effected a congregational organization as soon as possible after their arrival. Weiser, however, later in life, no doubt accepted Lutheranism as expounded in its spiritual sense by Muhlenberg.

In the absence of a regular pastor the congregation was served by a reader (*vorleser*) who read sermons and gave religious instruction. Conrad Weiser, after his arrival in 1729, became the reader and conducted the services in that congregation which was then worshipping in a church that had been built as early as 1727.

Weiser appears to have been at the head of a movement, about 1732, to secure a Lutheran pastor from Halle, in Germany, through Court Preacher Ziegenhagen, in London, who in 1722 had succeeded Court Preacher Boehme. A paper, or call, was drawn up for the purpose, signed by the Lutheran members of the congregation, and delivered by Weiser to a Caspar Leutbecker, with whom Weiser had acquaintanceship and who promised, as stated by Weiser, "to send that writing or call to Court Preacher Ziegenhagen in London, together with other information pertaining to the affair". (The name Leutbecker is found also as Leitbecker, Liebbecker and Lithbecker.)

With reference to this call the Moravian document shows (1) that the call was sent some time in 1733 to a "certain conscientious minister in Germany" known to Leutbecker; (2) that while awaiting the arrival of the minister a house was built for him at the suggestion of Leutbecker who during that time took charge of the congregation teaching and preaching and who by his faithful service had endeared himself to the people so that they would have preferred him as their regular minister; (3) that after waiting nearly a whole year, news was received that the preacher coming from Germany had died at sea; (4) that a call was then extended to Leutbecker to become the regular minister; and (5) that Leutbecker accepted the call, came and occupied the house built for the preacher, and preached his introductory sermon stating that he would serve the people conscientiously in the

matter of preaching and in the administration of the sacraments. These later events occurred in 1734.

Conrad Weiser in this connection, in his letter to Rev. Brunholtz, said—

“The supposed preacher died upon the water—so Leutbecker told us. The latter then was received as preacher by the majority (some few excepted). I earnestly protested against this step, because I began to doubt whether the above mentioned call had ever been sent to England. Finally I staid away from services, and remained entirely at home. In the congregation a great disturbance arose.”

Muhlenberg's account relative to the matter has the following:

“Mr. Leutbecker said that this call had been properly forwarded. As, meanwhile, some time elapsed, Leutbecker himself began to preach and made public that a preacher by the name of Bagenkopf had been sent by way of Hamburg and London, but died at sea. This, among other things, resulted in Mr. Weiser and others separating themselves from Leutecker's congregation, because they suspected that the call had not honestly been disposed of, and that the man had begun to exalt himself and to undertake a matter beyond his ability. About ten or twelve families clung to Mr. Leutbecker and acknowledged him as their regular minister, as he gave out that Court Preacher Boehme had ordained him.”

It appears, therefore, that the congregation was not unanimous in having Leutbecker as the pastor and that the opposition kept constantly increasing. A breach in the congregation was consequently to be expected at any time.

The rupture was not slow in coming, and when it came it brought about such serious disturbances that the effects thereof were felt through succeeding years.

John Caspar Stoever (found also Stiever, Steffer, etc.), a strictly orthodox Lutheran preacher, became the uncompromising opponent of the pietist Lutheran Leutbecker.

Stoever, according to all accounts, was bold, strenuous, aggressive, censorious and quick-tempered, and apparently lacked the spiritual qualities of heart and mind possessed by Muhlenberg. He seems to have preached the gospel and established congregations with the zeal and enterprise of a business man of the world. He was an indefatigable worker and had wonderful powers of endurance. For three years prior to his ordination on April 8, 1733, he appears to have visited different settlements preaching, baptizing and marrying. After his ordination he labored unceasingly, untiringly and extensively for a number of years. He made the rounds from settlement to settlement in all kinds of weather performing baptisms and marriages and preaching to the people all the way westward and northwestward from Philadelphia to the Susquehanna, and across that stream southward and southwestward through Maryland into Virginia. He was the forerunner of Lutheranism in many of those settlements.

As to Stoever's entry into the Tulpehocken controversy, the Moravian document, in which his name is given as Stiever, shows that Leutbecker refused to baptize a child brought to him by an intoxicated father; that the father, at the suggestion of another man, then applied to Caspar Stoever at Conestoga who came and baptized the child without consulting the regular pastor or investigating the case; and that "this then was the first act of interference on the part of Caspar Stiever and the primary cause of the Tulpehocken Confusion". This event took place probably near the close of 1734.

Stoever's policy was now to gain adherents. At first he preached in barns, but after a time he tried to get into the church with his people. In this Stoever, it is said, succeeded all the sooner because Leutbecker "was a peaceably disposed man and even though he heard nothing but abuse he would rather give up his own rights". Shortly thereafter it became manifest that Stoever desired to gain control of the church. To prevent disturbances the Leutbecker party was frequently compelled to omit services in the church, "until finally by unceasing abuse and denunciations Stiever so aroused his people that they drove us out of the church

entirely and we were compelled to hold our services in the preacher's house".

Then after taking counsel as to the proper procedure in the case, the Leutbecker party delegated two members to report the matter to a certain William Webb.

With reference to this matter it should be noted that the congregation at this time had no title to the church property and that much of the land occupied by these early settlers of that section, including the church property, was at the time part of the Manor of Plumpton, a tract of 5165 acres, which by virtue of a warrant dated at London, October 19, 1731, was surveyed on April 27, 1733, to John Page of Austin Fryers in the City of London, and confirmed, or patented, to him by the Penns on September 17, 1735. William Webb was one of the agents and attorneys constituted by John Page to transact all business pertaining to the manor.

Webb thereupon on January 22, 1736, sent a written Power of Attorney giving Leutbecker exclusive authority to teach and to preach in the church, and enjoining the Stoever party to keep the peace, until he could come and investigate the case. Stoever, whose adherents now, without doubt, outnumbered the members of the Leutbecker party, paid no attention to this and continued as before. It was found necessary shortly thereafter to renew this Power of Attorney by an additional one, but no better results were obtained. Then Webb himself came and with Leutbecker and Stoever went to the church for the purpose of hearing what each had to say and in that way to determine the cause of the controversy and possibly to effect a compromise between the two parties. The meeting, however, broke up in an uproar, Stoever having left the church, it is said, "in a fury of rage, scolding and reviling."

Webb, seeing that peace could not be secured by that plan, resolved to give the control of the church and the land connected therewith to certain men. "As the first step he secured a lock, fastened it to the door and locked the church." He then on September 13, 1736, issued a Power of Attorney by which he empowered Leonard Rieth (Reed), Frederick Schaeffer, Michael Rieth (Reed) and Michael

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Schaeffer, or any one of them, of Tulpehocken, to keep in possession the key of the church and to exercise control of the church and three acres of ground for the free use of religiously assembling to serve God at such days and times as may be thought proper by the minister and the four persons mentioned, with free access for all persons behaving peaceably when there assembled, no ways molesting or disturbing Caspar Leutbecker, now the minister, in the exercise of his duty.

This action entirely interdicted Stoever's trespassing and caused fearful commotion among his adherents who regarded the matter as slanderous. With a view to possible peace, however, upon the suggestion of Leonard Reed and the approval of the congregation after some discussion, Webb on September 15, 1736, after setting forth the consequences that would likely result from the action, gave to Stoever a limited permit to enter the church with his people one Sunday every month, on which day the church was to be opened for him by the Leutbecker party.

The doors of the church were now opened to the Stoever party on the fourth Sunday of every month. However, after some time, Stoever desired to enter the church on other occasions. This was refused. But not to be thwarted in the matter and not daring to break Webb's lock on the church door, Stoever and his party concluded to put another door in the church. According to the Moravian document it appears that a girl was pushed through a window into the church, and with a saw this girl on the inside and another girl on the outside enlarged the window to the dimensions of a door, through which Stoever and his people entered; that when Leutbecker and his people went to the church the following day they were surprised to find the Stoever party occupying the building, having assembled to celebrate communion; and that after this event the Stoever party took possession of the church on a number of succeeding Sundays and in that way crowded out the other party.

It was then proposed by the adherents of Leutbecker to secure their rights by law; but their peace-loving

preacher exhorted them to bear the wrong with Christian fortitude and to hold services in his house.

Matters, however, went from bad to worse. Leutbecker's house was attacked at night and the windows broken. His friends anxious for his safety kept watch over him at night for some time. He then became ill and finally was taken to George Loesch's house where in 1738 he died. Spangenberg, the forerunner of Zinzendorf is said to have preached his funeral sermon.

Conrad Weiser in his letter to Rev. Brunnholtz wrote—"At last Leutbecker died. Before his death the wearing of the priest's cap became rather heavy for him. He also had again sought my friendship before his end and found it."

Rev. John Nicholas Kurtz, who became the pastor of the Tulpehocken (Reed's) congregation in 1747, says in his diary—"Leutbecker died in the midst of great persecution. But his party did not wish to hold to Stoever and therefore for a time remained without a preacher, until at last Count Zinzendorf, the reformer, came to Pennsylvania."

After Leutbecker's death, his party was without a regular minister for several years while the Stoever party in the meantime seems to have been gaining ground.

In the latter part of 1740, however, the Moravians made their appearance and supplied the Leutbecker party at intervals with preachers, although Spangenburg had occasionally visited them before that time and "had awakened in Weiser an interest in the Moravians as being a devoted class of pietist Lutherans."

Because of this pietist type of Lutheranism professed by the Moravians, the members of the Leutbecker party were naturally drawn to them. It is also shown in historical sketches that Zinzendorf, the founder of the Moravian sect, at Herrnhut, Saxony, in 1727, was a "fervent Lutheran of the pietist type." The Leutbecker party now became known as the Moravian Lutherans as distinguished from the Lutherans under Stoever, and Weiser was one of their influential members.

In February, 1742, Count Zinzendorf visited Tulpehocken, having come to that place from a conference held by

him at Oley. Weiser had been at that conference as well as at a prior conference at Germantown where he made the acquaintance of Zinzendorf. Weiser was greatly impressed with Zinzendorf and considered him the proper person through whom to obtain a preacher from Halle for the Moravian Lutherans at Tulpehocken. In this connection Weiser has written as follows: "I thought now the time had come to help the congregation at Tulpehocken and opened the matter with the Count and asked him if he did not know how to bring a preacher from Halle hither. He saw no difficulty whatever in this, since, as he stated, he was in correspondence with the men at Halle. He journeyed with me from the Oley Conference to Tulpehocken in order to see the congregation itself. He preached the following Sunday in the Lutheran Church, yet not with any too large attendance."

Zinzendorf now proposed Gottlieb Buettner (shown also Gotlob Buetner) whom he had ordained at the conference at Oley and who, it was supposed, would be the means of peaceably ending the bitter disturbances. Buettner came and preached his introductory sermon near the close of February, 1742, the Stoever party having again been granted the privilege of preaching in the church every fourth Sunday. Buettner, however, failed in the peace policy, having attacked Stoever's status as a Lutheran minister, and the disturbances continued. He then on May 30, 1742, resigned and left the same day.

In the mean time the Buettner party, apparently upon the advice of Conrad Weiser, stole a march on the Stoever party and secured possession of the church property, which by deed of May 15, 1742, was conveyed by William Webb to six leading members of the Moravian party. There was, however, a bitter controversy for a time as to whom the church property actually belonged—whether to the six men to whom the property was conveyed by deed or to the congregation through those six men as trustees.

By this transaction the Moravian Lutherans gained entire possession of the church and its property and the Stoever party was permanently shut out. The Stoever party was therefore obliged to look for another place

and in 1743 built the Tulpehocken Lutheran (Christ) church west of Stouchsburg; but there too Stoever is said to have "conducted himself badly" and failed to become its pastor.

Immediately after Buettner's resignation the deacons of the church, according to the Moravian document, "unanimously resolved to call anew their preacher who had moved away". Several days thereafter they were notified that their preacher Gottlob Buettner had accepted the call and would come as soon as possible. The Moravian document then continues as follows: "We continued our services of singing, prayer and reading of sermons until, after the lapse of almost five weeks, our pastor again entered upon his duties. In the meanwhile we did not allow Stiever to preach. He preaches, as we hear, in a Reformed church, to which we have nothing to say".

Buettner after the acceptance of that call appears to have preached his first sermon on July 4, 1742, but about the beginning of September, 1742, he was sent away by Zinzendorf, and John Philip Meurer was put in his place. As the result of this change, Conrad Weiser says: "The majority ranged themselves with Caspar Stoever, until at last only several families remained over. But these latter capitulated to the so-called Moravians as follows—that they would be Lutheran as before in all points, that on the other hand the congregation at Bethlehem should give them a preacher who would preach for nothing."

The religious disturbances from 1734 to 1743, between Stoever and his adherents on the one side and the pietist Lutherans (afterward the Moravian Lutherans) on the other side, known as the Tulpehocken Confusion, were virtually ended by the conveyance of the church property to the Moravian Lutherans by deed of May 15, 1742, although they did not actually come to an end until the Stoever party concluded to found, in 1743, the Tulpehocken Lutheran (Christ) Church about two miles westward of the Reed's Church.

After this a controversy arose between the Lutherans and the Moravians about the control and ownership of the

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

Reed's Church. The Lutherans finally won when Rev. Kurtz became the pastor in 1747.

[The matter contained in this article has been principally adapted or copied from "The Lutheran Church in Pennsylvania, 1638-1800", by Rev. Theo. E. Schmauk, D. D., published in the Proceedings of The Pennsylvania German Society, Vols. XI and XII, and from the Moravian document entitled "The Tulpehocken Confusion".]



THE TULPEHOCKEN

History of the Lutheran Orphans' Home in Berks County, Pa -- Located at Tipton

The Beginning

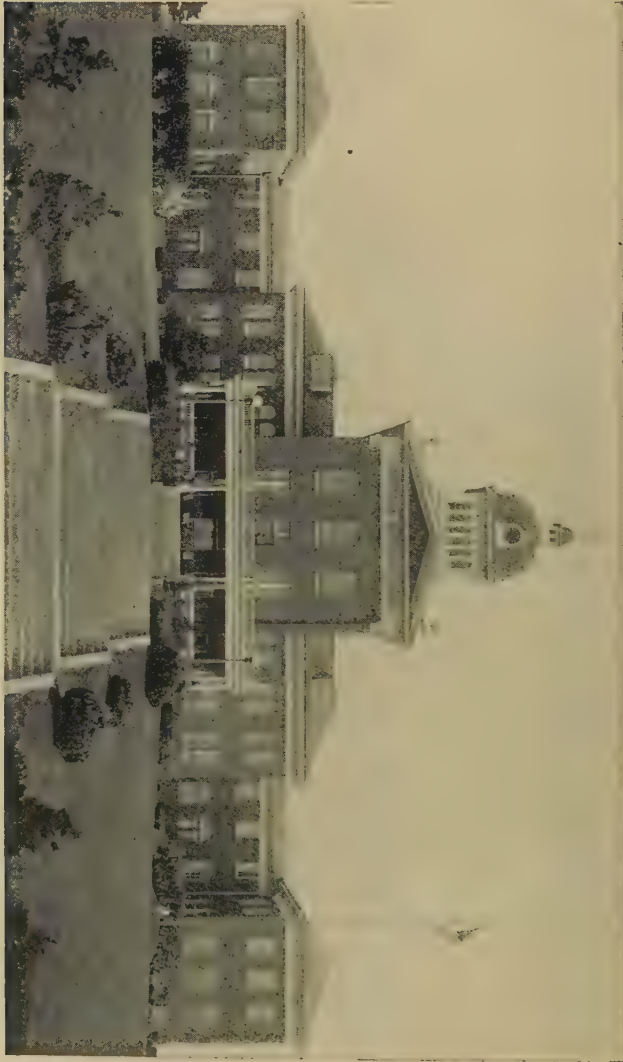
The first steps toward the founding of this Home were taken at a Sunday-school convention of the Reading Conference held at Boyertown, October 16, 1894. The question box contained this question: "What could be done on behalf of the orphans of our congregations or Sunday-schools being deprived of their homes and means of Christian education?" The convention resolved to refer this question to the Conference and appointed a committee to present the matter in proper form. This committee consisted of Revs. Drs. M. C. Horine, J. J. Kuendig and Mr. H. W. Schick. They reported to the Conference on April 23, 1895: "We deem it advisable to take steps towards providing for the homeless orphans and half-orphans of our congregations. We would recommend that we commence in a small manner and in good faith towards providing for them, and feel satisfied that God will provide as needs require; and also that a committee be appointed to take up this work."

Revs. J. J. Kuendig, D. D., S. L. Harkey, D. D., U. P. Heilman, Messrs. H. W. Schick and A. Bendel were appointed to present this matter to the Synod at its next meeting, and "In case our Synod approves of this step, this committee is to look around to see what can and should be done towards establishing such an institution."

On June 11, 1895, the committee laid the following before the Synod: "After due consideration, the Reading Conference, for many and weighty reasons, feels the necessity of establishing, in this strongly Lutheran section of our Synod (Berks County and surroundings), a Home for orphans, friendless, homeless and neglected children; it therefore respectfully asks Synod to approve of its intentions to establish such a Home." Upon this the Synod passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the Ministerium has heard with great gratification the proposal of the Reading Conference to establish an Orphans' Home within its bounds:

THE ORPHANS' HOME



LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

“Resolved, That this movement meets with our hearty approval and that we pray that the blessing of God may attend it.”

Since 1898 the Ministerium appointed a committee of official visitors to the Home, and now nominates two members of the Board.

On May 5, 1896, a provisional constitution was adopted and a Board of Trustees elected, to whom was given the authority to purchase a farm and establish the Home.

The Board of Trustees organized on May 11, 1896, and elected Rev. U. P. Heilman, president; H. W. Schick, secretary, and E. S. Wertz, treasurer. On October 12 of



THE FARM BUILDINGS

this year the Rev. U. P. Heilman was elected the Superintendent of the Home. He labored earnestly and patiently for its establishment, and to his faithful and untiring efforts, under the divine blessing, the success of the Institution is due in a large measure. The charter was granted by the court of the county on Dec. 7, 1896, and the Institution was thus legally established under the title—"The Lutheran Orphans' Home in Berks County, Pennsylvania."

The corporation met as a legal body for the first time on May 11, 1897. Besides those mentioned the original Board included Revs. F. K. Huntzinger, A. M. Weber, Messrs. W. B. Bieber, H. H. Reinert and Philip S. Zieber, Esq.

The Place

After much visitation, deliberation and prayerful consideration, the Board of Trustees decided to purchase the farm of Peter Diener at Topton. Thus this Institution was located practically in the geographical and numerical centre of the territory of our Synod. This farm, bought October 12, 1896, contains 105 acres. Additional ground was purchased to assure an unlimited supply of spring water.

The Home

The Superintendent with his family moved into the farm house on March 30, 1897. Here the first orphans, Sallie E. Carl, aged six years, and Clair E. Carl, aged nine years, were received on May 17. On the 29th of June, in the morning at 6 o'clock, the Superintendent, with pick and shovel on his back, went out to the building site of the projected main building and placed himself on the spot where his office was to be. Turning towards sunrise, with folded hands and uplifted face, he began, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." Then he dug out, in the shape of a cross, about the size of a man, several wheelbarrowfuls of ground. Then looking towards the north, and kneeling in the cross-shaped opening, he offered a brief prayer, asking God's choicest benediction upon the Home. In this manner the ground for the Orphans' Home was formally broken.

Drawings and specifications for the building were made by Architect Frederick A. Barrows. The building committee were Messrs. Bieber, Schick and Wertz and Revs. Huntzinger and Heilman. By Saturday, September 18, 1897, the foundations were completed and the cornerstone was laid by the President of the Board, Rev. F. K. Huntzinger. Addresses were made by Revs. J. J. Cressman, M. C. Horine, D. D., J. J. Kuendig, D. D., John Gruhler, F. F. Fry, Supt. U. P. Heilman and Supt. Thomas Yundt, of

Bethany Home. On Thursday, September 14, 1899, the Home was dedicated by the President. The President of the Ministerium, the Rev. Samuel Laird, D. D., made the chief address. Others who spoke were Revs. Drs. F. J. F. Schantz and J. J. Kuendig, and Mr. Leonard Sefing, a director of the Germantown Home. The building has a front of 115 feet and a depth of 57 and 76 feet, facing the north. The height to the top of the dome is 105 feet. The main



THE ORIGINAL HOME

building is three stories high and the wings two stories. The kitchen and dining room in the rear are 34 by 59 feet. The cost of the farm, buildings and furnishings totalled about \$40,000, of which \$7,000 was for the farm.

The Superintendents

Strenuous work was laid upon the Superintendent—the care of the multiplying number of children, the supervision of the home, farm and school, the presentation of the cause before our congregations and the collecting of funds. Faithfully and successfully he labored until, broken in health, he laid down the work at the call of the Master, on April 10, 1900. His age was 50 years, 4 months and 5 days. A burial plot was laid out near the Home building and here on April 16th his mortal remains were placed. Sermons in English were preached by Revs. S. L. Harkey, D. D., on Ps. 12:1, and by Rev. M. C. Horine, D. D., on Isa.

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55:8-9, and in German by Rev. A. M. Weber on Rev. 14:13. A monument to his memory was donated and erected by P. F. Eisenbrown, Sons & Co., of Reading, Pa. This was unveiled with appropriate ceremonies by members of the Board and the children of the Home on May 7, 1902.

Mrs. Heilman had temporary charge of the Home until the successor could be found and showed splendid executive ability.

The Rev. J. H. Raker began his work as Superintendent on October 2, 1900, and served the Home faithfully until April 25, 1907. During his incumbency the Home



THE CHAPEL

was placed on a solid financial footing. He was remarkably successful in raising funds for the support of the Home and the wiping-out of its indebtedness. On May 11, 1904, he could announce that the Home was free of debt. He also was instrumental in raising a fund of \$5,500 for a proposed Old Folks' Home. In the Summer of 1902 a reservoir was constructed in the grove, to supply the buildings with running water. The work was a gift from Charles Breineiser, Sr., of Reading. The Rev. Frederick Holter served as Superintendent from January 1, 1908, to January 1, 1909.

Rev. J. O. Henry, the pastor of the local congregation, served as temporary superintendent between the last two

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administrations, and again until he himself was called to the office. He took full charge July 1, 1909. His term thus far has been characterized by expansion in all directions, and by the loving care for the spiritual, intellectual and physical welfare of the children committed to them, bestowed by a truehearted house-father and a tender and loving house-mother. Rev. and Mrs. Henry have found their God-appointed work.

Enlargement

On August 18, 1910, the installing of a tower clock and bell, the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob C. Stotter, of Potts-



MRS. J. O. HENRY, MATRON

town, was completed. The years of 1910 and 1911 showed great progress. A two-story building, 32 by 50 feet, to be known as the Annie L. Lowry Memorial Infirmary, was erected, at a cost of \$5,500. Two-story wings, 30½ by 36½ feet, and connecting halls, 18 by 36 feet, were added to both ends of the main building at a cost of \$12,500. These are used for additional dormitories, school rooms and a chapel. The chapel, with its pretty stained glass windows, was completely equipped with churchly furniture by the Orphans' Home Society of Trinity Lutheran Church, of Reading. The dedication of the chapel, infirmary and wings took place on Wednesday, May 24, 1911.

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The sermon was preached by the Rev. E. T. Horn, D. D., on the text, Ps. 73:25. In 1912 an addition to the dining room, 25 by 30 feet, of two stories, was built at a cost of \$2,700. In 1922 the halls connecting the main building and wings were enlarged to furnish play rooms, attendants' rooms and rooms for convalescents.



HOLTON MEMORIAL

The Baby Home

A long-felt need of the Home was a building properly equipped for the care of infants. As such children require especial attention, the Board felt its inability to receive children under the age of three years. This need is happily met by the erection of a building and equipment for a Baby Home known as the George E. Holton Memorial Cottage for Infants.

Mrs. Jessica Holton and her children, Oliver, Kathryn and Jessica Williams Holton, have generously erected and equipped this beautiful building, for the care of infant orphans, in loving memory of Mr. Holton. It was dedicated June 28, 1916.

School House

During the year 1917 a school building was erected. It is a two-story building, containing four school rooms,

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

a supply room, a dental room and a large room in the basement for manual training. The building with modern improvements and equipment costs about \$15,000. The first sessions of school in three of the rooms were held on September 4, 1918. The fourth room was opened in September, 1921, for a Junior High School. A regular music teacher for all the schools is employed since 1919.



THE SCHOOLHOUSE

The schools are held nine months in the year and do successful work, as evidenced by the classes each year passing the Township examinations by the County Superintendent. Friends of the Home have helped some of the pupils to a higher education. Fifteen of the children graduated from the Normal School at Kutztown, and seven from business college. One is a student at Muhlenberg College.

The Playgrounds

In the early history of the Home a small dam was built in the grove about three squares away from the main building. It served a two-fold purpose for a number of years. In summer time it was a favorite place for swimming and in winter time for skating.

During the spring freshet of 1919 the water washed away part of the breast and sides. As it was only a small

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

dam and the children anxious for a larger place for swimming and skating, it was decided not to repair but instead build a large dam about two squares away from the Home buildings. All the ice needed is harvested from the new dam.

In 1911 a cement bathing pool was built in the basement. The water is heated by steam pipes connected to



THE SWIMMING POOL—SKATING RINK

the laundry boiler. The pool is a donation from the Wartburg Orphans' School Band, Mt. Vernon, New York, and St. John's German Lutheran Church Choir, Reading, Pa.

A wading pond fifty feet in diameter with a fountain in the center was constructed between the Holton Memorial and the school house in 1916. This is a place where the smaller children have very pleasant times during the hot summer days wading and gradually learning to swim. It provides a very healthy place of amusement.

A rustic pavilion twenty-four feet wide and ninety-six feet long was constructed on the south side of the boys'

playground in 1912. This gives the boys a fine place in rainy weather during the summer to be out doors, playing games, and yet not exposed to the rain. On the girls' playground a pavilion twenty-six by thirty-six feet was built by Mr. and Mrs. Boadwee in 1919. Here they spend many an hour when it is real hot or raining.

The Helpers

At this point it is proper to say something about the faithful helpers in the Home, on whose efficient and unselfish labors the smooth running of all departments depends. Mrs. Vesta Heilman (called Mamma Heilman by the former and older children in the Home,) Mrs. Sue Carmany, in the employ since May, 1902, (the oldest in time of service, a real pillar of strength), and the wives of the Superintendents have served faithfully as matrons. Ella and Emma Meyner deserve recognition as teachers for a number of years after their release from the Home.

The aged cook, Maria Schaeffer, found a permanent home here for her declining years. She died on Jan. 5, 1919, at the age of 75 years, having lived here 14 years, loved by all. Louisa Meyner took charge of the kitchen work in 1912, at the age of 18 years. Her careful management in this important part of the Home's work at her age is to be commended. "Uncle" Daniel Link, the caretaker of the boys, and all-round man, will be lovingly remembered by many of them. John G. Dienstel has served faithfully as truck-manager and fireman for the past 18 years.

The Support

The support of the Home has been derived from various sources. Individuals and societies have risen in all emergencies and for all requirements. Numerous bequests and some endowments have furnished the means for expansion and maintenance. A happy inspiration was that of the first Superintendent to let the people know the needs and progress of the Home through the medium of a monthly paper. One of the first duties placed upon the Superintendent by the Board was "To publish the Orphans' Home Paper monthly and distribute it



BOARD
OF



TRUSTEES,
1923



among the people, so that our members may keep informed and become interested." The first copy was issued in January, 1897. Its influence and popularity have steadily increased until now its 26th volume has a subscription list of 10,800. The annual Donation Day (the third Thursday in August) draws great crowds to the Home. When the cost of putting up the main building loomed so large before the Board, it occurred to Mr. Walter Bieber that an excursion to the battlefield of Gettysburg might be profitable to the Home. With untiring zeal he, with friends, worked up an excursion for Oct. 23, 1897. The number of passengers was 360 on the one train starting from Allentown. Gradually other sections were added until ten special trains were run every year and the number of passengers reached a total of 5,000. The financial results of these excursions owe their success to the untiring labors of Mr. Bieber. They were discontinued during the war and have not been resumed.

In its infancy, when the needs were small, the Pottsville Conference took upon itself to furnish the coal needed in the Orphanage. As the needs grew the hearts of these brethren and their members grew apace and they have not faltered in supplying most all the coal required. Scores of societies in as many congregations are working to supply the Home with money, clothing, bedding, provisions, etc. Prominent among these is the Tipton Orphans' Home Society, organized in 1897.

In the 25 years of its existence this Home has cared for 475 children.

Board of Trustees

The following are the trustees arranged according to the order of the cut: D. C. Lotz, Pres., Rev. W. O. Laub, Sec., J. A. Schofer, Treas., Rev. A. M. Weber (first row); A. Bendel, H. H. Reinert (second row); Dr. G. G. Wenrich, W. S. Mohr (third row); Rev. W. F. Deibert, Rev. Dr. M. L. Zweizig, Rev. C. E. Kistler, Rev. H. S. Kidd (fourth row); Rev. J. O. Henry, Supt. (center).

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY



THE FAMILY

Sunday Schools

THE Sunday School is of comparatively recent origin. In the brief historical sketch, prepared by Dr. Offerman for the 175th anniversary of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, St. John's English Lutheran Church of Philadelphia is given the credit of having organized the first Sunday School of the Synod, in 1821. Soon after this date it appeared in Berks County.

Practically all the denominations represented in Reading participated in its first Sunday School which held its meetings in the Old Academy, at 7th and Chestnut streets. The Lutherans and Reformed withdrew from this school, April 5, 1829, to meet in the Major Madary Building located at the northwest corner of Fifth and Cherry streets. One of the last acts of Rev. Henry Muhlenberg, pastor of Trinity Church from 1803 to 1829, was the organization of the first purely Lutheran Sunday School in Berks County.

About this time, Union Sunday Schools sprang up in Kutztown, Womelsdorf and other villages throughout the county. The opposition to these schools, owing largely to their nondescript character, was very strong. The pastors, who in many cases led in denouncing them, were usually justified in their attitude. These schools were frequently independent and the methods they pursued occasionally reflected very seriously on the work they claimed to be doing. The lack of workers in this field at times necessitated the employment of paid superintendents. In 1854, Mr. Jacob Barlett, was thus employed by at least three Sunday Schools, which kept him busy morning, afternoon and evening every Sunday.

Although there was in most of the schools no definite teaching, much good was accomplished by some of them. In a Scripture text memorizing contest held in the Leesport Sunday School, a certain youth committed 914 verses in nine weeks to win a Bible that cost one dollar. This youth afterwards became a noted preacher in the Reformed and Episcopal churches. The second prize was won by A. P. Body who is now the Nestor of Luther League and Sunday School

workers in the Reading Conference. Similar contests in reading books, furnished by the American Tract Society, and committing hymns, were conducted. Practically the only text book was the New Testament, and the lesson period was occupied by the scholars to read in rotation, under the direction of the teacher, verse after verse until several chapters were read.

No persistent efforts were made by Lutherans to establish Sunday Schools in Berks County, until 1845, when the Reverend Samuel K. Brobst, who was baptized and confirmed in the Jerusalem Church in Albany Township, entered upon the work under the auspices of the American Sunday School Union. His work, of course, embraced his home congregation and extended all over Berks County and far beyond it. The "Jugendfreund," which he began to publish in 1847, went into many Sunday Schools of that period. On account of the lamentable dearth of Sunday School literature in his time, he prepared a little book of questions and answers entitled "Anfangsgruende der Religion." In oral drills conducted by the superintendents this booklet was impressed upon the memories of thousands of young people. It was afterwards made the basis of the "Child's Catechism" by the Reverend Doctor Matthias H. Richards, a native of Reading. Thus the beginnings of American Lutheran Sunday School literature were made by men who were reared in the Lutheran churches of Berks County.

From its very beginning the appeal of the Sunday School for admission into the churches increased until the latter part of the 19th century, when it became irresistible. The more definite program which the Graded System, edited by Dr. Schmauk, offered, had much to do in winning for the Sunday School its rightful place in the Church.

Luther League

THE Central Luther League of Reading and vicinity or the District Luther League of Berks County, as it is now known, was organized in the rooms of the Young People's Association of Trinity Church, Reading, on the evening of May 18th, 1894.

There were four local organization represented at the preliminary meeting, viz: Grace Luther League, St. James' Young Peoples' Guild, St. Matthew's Y. P. S. of C. E. and Trinity Young People's Association. G. H. Huppert and J. C. Holloway represented Grace; William H. Parvin and Miss Alice Hemmig represented St. James'; John A. Garner, Adam Z. Haas and Miss Marie Fisher represented St. Matthew's; John F. Christman, C. M. Richards, George M. Jones, Miss Rose Dundore and Miss Ella Roeder represented Trinity.

The officers of the temporary organization were: President, John A. Garner; secretary, George M. Jones.

At the meeting held June 15, 1894, the following permanent officers were elected: President, G. H. Huppert; first vice president, William M. Parvin; second vice president, John A. Garner; secretary, Miss Mame Fisher; treasurer, John F. Christman.

The first regular meeting was held on June 18th, 1894, in Grace Church and the first constitution was adopted at a meeting held on June 15, 1894.

The report for the year 1923 shows the following membership of the District: 25 senior leagues with a membership of 805; nine junior leagues numbering 604 members and two intermediate leagues with an enrollment of 136 members, a total of 1,545. The financial report for 1921-1922 shows that the locals contributed for local church purposes \$1,764.97 and for general benevolence \$1,744.10 or a total of \$3,509.07.

Although in the past, the District has, on a number of occasions, contributed to the general work of the church, its purpose is not to raise money but rather, through its conventions, to stimulate liberality on the part of locals in

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their respective congregations. Its work is rather constructive through the extension committee and instructive through the executive committee.

At first conventions were held quarterly but are now held semi-annually, in April and September.

Its officers for the year 1923 are: President, Ralph G. Swavely; first vice president, Elmer Zieber; second vice president, Rev. Raymond J. Heckman; recording secretary, Miss Jennie Krick; corresponding secretary, Miss Dorothy Eidam; statistical secretary, Mrs. Ralph G. Swavely; treasurer, A. P. Body.

The finances for carrying on the work of the District are secured by per capita dues paid by the locals connected with it and by the offerings at its conventions.

The forming of new local organizations and the securing of funds for promoting the work of the District, State and National Leagues, through the prepayment of the dues of the locals, is done through the efforts of the veteran Luther Leaguer, A. P. Body, chairman of the District extension committee and its treasurer.



Women's Missionary Society

THIS society was organized in the chapel of Trinity church on May 13, 1896. Faithful members of Trinity, St. James, and Hope congregations of Reading and others from Trinity, Kutztown; Trinity, Leesport; St. John's, Hamburg and St. John's, Boyertown, came in answer to a call for the meeting. Mrs. H. H. Muhlenberg acted as temporary president and Miss Emma Endlich was the temporary secretary.

It was decided that a permanent organization should be formed. The adoption of a constitution was followed by the election of officers with the result as follows: President, Mrs. Jerome Boyer; vice President, Mrs. F. K. Bernd; recording secretary, Miss Emma Endlich; corresponding secretary, Mrs. William Murphy; treasurer, Miss Sue Boyer.

The first annual convention was held in Trinity, Reading, on May 5, 1897. The receipts for the year were \$77.36. Mrs. Samuel Laird of Philadelphia addressed the meeting on Medical Missions and presented plans for the publication of a proposed missionary magazine to be known as "The Mission Worker." Miss Emma Endlich was afterwards the editor of this magazine and Miss Nora Iaeger, also of Reading, was the business manager. This magazine has since been merged with "The Lutheran Woman's Work" published under the supervision of the United Lutheran Church. There are about 300 subscribers to this magazine within the bounds of the Reading Conference.

Ever since its organization the work of the Society has extended into all the foreign fields approved by the United Lutheran Church, helping particularly in Zenana, Medical, Educational and Industrial work. Home and Inner Missions, West India Missions and Church Extension all receive their proportionate support.

The aim of the Society is World Wide Missions.

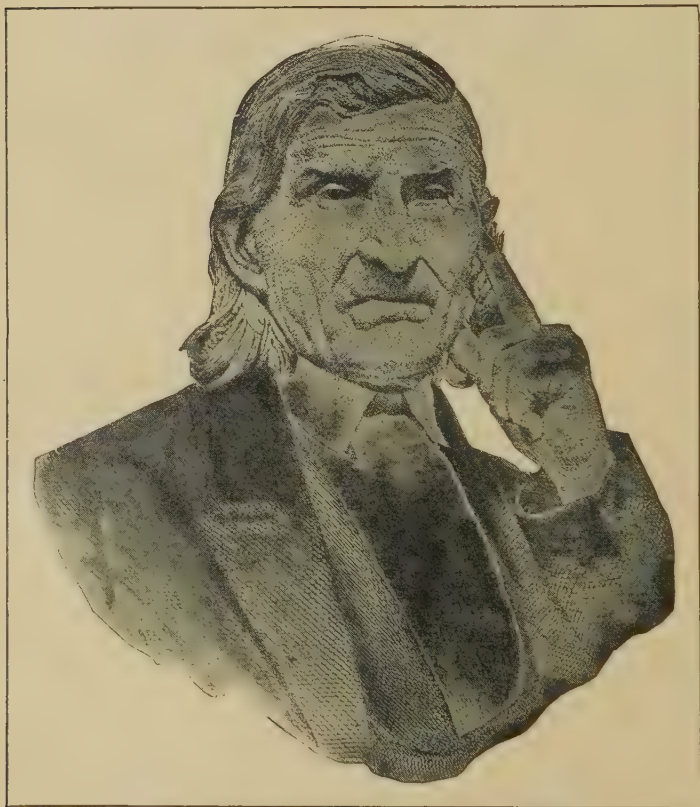
The Women's Missionary Society hopes to establish congregational societies in at least every parish of the Reading Conference.

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The growth both numerically and financially has been steady. At the present time the Conference Society is composed of eighteen Senior Congregational Societies with a membership of 660. There are also ten Junior Societies with a membership of 330.

The receipts for the year 1922-1923 totaled \$3,854.87.

The officers at present are the following: President, Mrs. Edgar A. Krauss; vice-president, Mrs. S. A. Knabb; recording secretary, Mrs. William Fegley; statistical secretary, Mrs. James Shaner; treasurer, Mrs. Frank Bitting.



FATHER HEYER, VETERAN MISSIONARY

Brotherhood

AT A meeting of the joint Lutheran Church Councils of Reading held in Alsace Lutheran Church in June, 1920, the Reverend Charles L. Fry, eastern field secretary of the Lutheran Brotherhood of the United Lutheran Church addressed the councilmen on the work being done by the Brotherhood, and pointed out the merits of such an organization in the Reading Conference district. A committee consisting of Theo. C. Abele, George M. Jones, Robert L. Strohecker and William J. Frederick was appointed to take up the organization of Brotherhoods in the various congregations. On September 21, 1920, Mr. Harry B. Gerhart, the western field secretary of the Brotherhood in touring the east addressed a large men's meeting in Trinity Church, Reading; at which time resolutions were adopted, that an organization would be formed of all Lutheran Men's organizations to be known as the Associated Lutheran Brotherhoods of Berks County on Luther's Birthday on November 10th, 1920. A meeting was held on that day and was attended by representatives from many of our congregations, some organizations attending in a body; one in particular having over a hundred men in their representation. Enthusiasm ran high and after forming a permanent organization the following officers were elected to serve for one year, viz: President, Theo. C. Abele; vice president, Prof. S. P. Dietrick; secretary, Chas. M. Shully; treasurer, Gilbert Snyder; and an executive committee consisting of the officers and George M. Jones, William J. Frederick and Robert L. Strohecker.

The first year's work was very gratifying, and at the end of the year eleven active Brotherhoods had organized for the work. Through the activity of this organization the Laymen's Meeting of Synod was invited to meet with the Associated Brotherhood during the meeting of Synod in Reading in June, 1921. This proved a very interesting meeting as the main topic of discussion was the Brotherhood. Out of this meeting grew the very efficient Brotherhood of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania, through a com-

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mittee named by the chairman of the Laymen's Meeting. This committee consisted of James M. Snyder, of Philadelphia; Theo C. Abele, of Reading and Capt. H. M. M. Richards, of Lebanon and the officers of Synod. This latter organization also had its birth within the Reading Conference as the convention for organization was held in Trinity Church, Reading, Pa., on December 6, 1921.

The Associated Brotherhoods hold semi-annual meetings and are addressed by the leaders of the church. The meetings to date have been addressed by: Prof. Chas. M. Jacob; Prof. Horn; Harry B. Gerhart; Dr. Chas. L. Fry; Rev. F. G. Gotwald; and Rev. Z. M. Corbe. These meetings are always inspiring and uplifting to all who attend. The Brotherhoods have been a valuable asset to the pastors and congregations of which they are a part. The every member canvass has to a large degree been made a comparatively easy task through Brotherhood co-operation. Great activity among the laymen has been fostered through their acquaintance with their fellow workers of other congregations by the touch received from Brotherhood associations. The present officers are: President, John O. Haines; secretary, Ralph G. Swavely; treasurer, Gilbert Snyder; and an executive committee made up of the officers and the presidents of the various congregational Brotherhoods.



The Local Lutheran Church and the Church at Large

TO WRITE intelligently about the influence of the Lutheran Church in the City of Reading and in the County of Berks on the church at large is impossible, because of the bigness of the task and the lack of omniscience on the part of our historians and statisticians. The writer is amazed, simply amazed, in his larger contacts with the men and women of the Lutheran Church to find how many of them can trace their Lutheran heritage to Berks County homes and local Lutheran congregations. This applies in large measure to our great and leading cities for the Pennsylvania German possesses several qualities which are distinctive and spell success. He is loyal to truth and tradition and as a rule he seeks out his church wherever he goes. He is ambitious. That is why he migrates to the cities—and assumes a conspicuous place in business and at church. He is thrifty. That is why, financially speaking, he often becomes a tower of strength to the congregation with which he associates. Day after day we receive letters from all over the United States asking us to trace the ancestry of Lutheran forebears.

In speaking of the local church and the church at large it is well to bear in mind that when rationalism and loose methods and disjointed services swept through the Lutheran Church in the wake of similar movements in other churches, it was at Reading in the year 1866 that the work of reconstruction was undertaken by representatives of Lutheran Synods in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Canada and New York. There were also members of the Norwegian Synod present. These delegates assembled in "Old Trinity" at the invitation of the "Old Ministerium of Pennsylvania", the "Mother Synod" to discuss the foundation and formation of a General Lutheran Body on a strictly confessional basis. The General Council born at Reading in the cold December days of 1866 has come and gone. The delegates to that first meeting represented a

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constituency of 893 ministers, 1612 congregations and over 200,000 communicants, a constituency that kept on growing until 1918 when it was merged with other bodies into the United Lutheran Church. It can not be denied that the General Council was in itself a very essential contribution to the continued existence of the Lutheran Church in America. Its influence will continue to live and it will mould, through its documentary history and its life-giving spirit, the church of today and tomorrow. It will ever be a memorial to our Lutheran forefathers in this territory, this willingness of theirs to launch out into the deep of controversial uncertainty because of the consciousness of the rightness of their confessional faith.

Less than three years after the organization of the General Council at Trinity Church, a second momentous decision affecting the church as a whole was to be arrived at in this now historic edifice. The Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States, then known as the German Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and Adjacent States, was holding its 122nd annual meeting at Trinity during Trinity week of 1869 when unexpectedly Father C. F. Heyer, the 77-year-old veteran in Foreign Mission work appeared, having traveled all the way from Germany, his temporary home because of a disquieting bit of news which he had heard. It so happened that the Foreign Missionary Society of the General Synod had actually begun negotiations with the Church Missionary Society of England looking toward the transfer of the Rajahmundry mission to that society. Father Heyer brought with him one of two young men ready to go out to India, the other could not get ready in time but awaited orders in Germany. Father Heyer pleaded earnestly for the continuation of the work so near to his heart. We quote from the volume on "The Telugu Mission" by Drach and Kuder and from the minutes of the Ministerium in the following:

"Reaching the climax of his plea and holding up his traveling bag, he (Father Heyer) said that he was ready to go at a moment's notice, if the synod wished it, even though he was seventy-seven years old and it would be his third journey to India, in order that he might direct his younger

brethren in the reorganization of the mission work. As a result of his plea, a special committee appointed for the purpose submitted the following resolutions:

"Whereas a report has reached us that it is proposed to transfer the mission stations at Rajahmundry and Samulkot in India to the Church Missionary Society of England, and

"Whereas we learn from a report of the proceedings of the General Synod's Missionary Society at Washington, that a transfer of these mission stations to another interest was referred to its Foreign Mission Board with power to act as in their judgment they should deem most advisable, and

"Whereas this Synod originally established the India mission and sustained the same successfully for many years; therefore,

"Be it resolved that we most solemnly protest against the transfer of the Mission to any other than a Lutheran Missionary Society, and

"Resolved, that the Rev. C. F. Heyer be requested to lay this protest before the Foreign Mission Board of the General Synod, and

"Resolved, that the Executive Committee be authorized to take such action in consultation with the Committee on Foreign Missions of the General Council as they deem proper."

The Executive Committee of the Ministerium met on August 27, 1869, in Trinity Church, Reading, and accepted the transfer of the Rajahmundry mission, formally offered by the Foreign Missionary Society and called Revs. Heyer, Schmidt and Becker as the Ministerium's foreign missionaries.

It was thus that a great calamity was averted and the fruits of the labors of Father Heyer were conserved.

It is interesting to note in passing that the question of church benevolences was seriously discussed and certain plans were drawn up at this same meeting of the Ministerium in Reading, which looked toward the every member canvass and the principle of stewardship. We have gone a long way since that day in which the fathers sought to have every member contribute one cent a week toward bene-



REFORMATION JUBILEE OF THE READING CONFERENCE. READING FAIRGROUNDS, AUGUST 3, 1917



REFORMATION JUBILEE OF THE READING CONFERENCE, READING FAIR-ROUNDS, AUGUST 3, 1917

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volences. This discussion is of double interest to the members of today in view of the fact that the Reading Conference is today a testing station in which the members of the Conference have taken it upon themselves to try out experiments which if successful will materially increase the contributions of the church at large for benevolent purposes. These experiments in personal visitation and explanation have already materially advanced the cause of the Kingdom both at home and abroad.

The experiments now being carried on in the Reading Conference are not limited to the obtaining of material results. A Conference in which there has been a great deal of congregational zeal but little real team work is gradually being welded under the direction of an able administrator as President into a splendid unit. This unity was shown in the fine celebration of the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the Reformation at the Reading Fair Grounds in 1917. It has since had an opportunity to manifest itself in the 175th Anniversary of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania held at Reading in 1923. The remarkably fine setting forth of the mission of the United Lutheran Church in America by the President of the United Lutheran Church came as the climax of a celebration which indicated the strength of the church and its possibilities. The Reading Conference will always have just cause to feel proud of having furnished the background and the incentive for that speech.



BERKS HALL AT MUHLENBERG COLLEGE

German Settlers Move Farther Into the Wilderness of Pennsylvania

From Hallische Nachrichten translated from the German
by Jonathan Oswald, 1879, Volume 2, Page 48

IN THE month of March (1747) I (Henry Melchior Muhlenberg) made a journey to the Northwestern mountains (Albany township, Berks county), fifty English miles from Providence. Many German people live there poorly and scantily, and have want in both spiritual and bodily nourishment. As several of our poor members moved to that place, and called to mind their divine service, they invited me to pay them a visit. Many grow wild, and no longer value churches and schools. Others employ such men who have set themselves up as preachers. Others still seek something edifying, and will have nothing to do with the self-constituted preachers, but fall on the other side, and attach themselves to the Herrnhuter (Moravians) of Bethlehem. My former hearers several times before sent men to me and asked for help. As I at this time had the assistant, Mr. Kurtz (John Nicholas Kurtz) with me, I sent him up several times, and through my father-in-law, (Conrad Weiser) secured a little land from the proprietor (the Penn family) for a church (land warrant dated April 11, 1746). On this land they were to build a wooden school-house or church. If in time they became able to keep a school-master, the children would thus first be assisted somewhat. The school-master was to read for them on Sundays, and I would visit them once or several times a year. It seemed as if they would for the most part agree, and approve of the proposal. They also began to build a wooden church. In the meantime, the Herrnhuter from Bethlehem diligently visited the place, drew those to them who were the richest, and persuaded them that they were the genuine Lutherans; also celebrated the Holy Supper with them according to the Lutheran mode, and sent a brother with his family to the families won over, who was to teach school. The other party seeing this, became exasperated, and employed reproachful

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expressions, and on this account the third party also withdrew. Now, though they had commenced to build the church, there has been no progress made, and the building begun stands there roofless until this day. Those inclined to the Herrnhuter are willing and able to finish the building, but on this condition, that it must be a Brethren church; but to this I did not consent, as the land is yet in my hand, and I have hope in time to help the poor Lutherans with their building.

At present I see no possibility of aiding such a ruined and distracted multitude, and of effecting an improvement, until the Lord provides me with means and ways, as yet unknown. On my present visit, I preached there, baptized several children, and exhorted my former members to a diligent reading of the Holy Scriptures and prayer; and on their suppliant entreaty and petition, I administered the Holy Supper to two aged people, whose children have associated themselves with the Herrnhuter, whereat they secretly wept, and received the Holy Supper in deepest reverence of heart, and promised to remain faithful to their only Shepherd of Souls, Jesus Christ, in life, in suffering, and in death.

This church building is what is known as the Allemaengel, Jerusalem or Red church, in Albany township, Berks county, Pa. On April 11, 1746, the proprietor issued a land warrant to Henry Melchior Muhlenberg for 50 acres in Philadelphia county, "adjoining the Lands of Andreas Folks and Michael Kigler, Situate above Maxatawny."

GERMAN SETTLERS MOVE FARTHER INTO THE WILDERNESS OF PENNSYLVANIA

From Hallische Nachrichten translated from the German by Jonathan Oswald, 1879, Volume 2, Page 51.

THE reason we (Henry Melchior Muhlenberg and assistants) are invited to go to a distance, here and there are the following: Our German Evangelical inhabitants, for the most part came the latest into this province. The English and German Quakers, the Inspired, Mennonites, Separatists, and other such small sects, came in first when the land was still very cheap. Those selected for themselves

the best and richest tracts of land, and are now enriched. But in later years, after the poor Evangelicals also found the way, and numerous came into this country also, some perhaps here and there still found some good land. Most of them, however, had to serve for several years for their passage as men-servants and maid-servants, and afterwards shift with the poor land, and eat their bread in the copious sweat of their brows. At length, also, not even poor land was any more to be had; therefore the poor rented the superfluous land from the rich. But the rich raised their rents so high that the poor were unable to bear it. Therefore they removed still farther away, into the wild thickets. Those who still had somewhat of their own got other families, who were also obliged to remove further, to move with them. Those who were in our congregations for a time, and from necessity had to go further, into the still uncultivated wilderness, sometimes wrote the most affecting letters, and bewailed their hunger after the Word of God. They also tell their neighbors how good it once was with them, and desire to hear once more words of life in the desert where there is not water. I have noticed that within the five years of my stay here, scarcely one-half of the first members of the country congregations are left. The other half is in part in eternity; most of them, however, moved away from forty to one hundred English miles, to the borders of Pennsylvania, to Maryland and to Virginia. In the meanwhile, the congregations did not decrease, but much more increased, as still more Germans arrived every year, and those remaining settled their children around them as far as they could find room and sustenance. But some too are perhaps wont to remove from our region, who have a disgust and are displeased with our churches and schools, and would rather live in darkness, where their works are not reprov'd by the light. In this manner, we preachers far and near, must pass through honor and shame, through evil and good report; but rejoice in this, when the gospel is spread abroad and the name of the Lord is made known, and we long: "O that the evening come, when it shall be so light, and the bright lustre of the Spirit render us very compliant to Thee. Yea, what more? That I might hear within, the night is past!"

Typical Front Pages of Old Church Records

Jerusalem Church (Allemaengel)

In Albany Township.

Church Record

DANIEL Schumacher Evangelischer Lutherischer Prediger Habe dasz Kirchen Buch Eingerichtet, der Herr Pfarrer Mr. Tobias Wagner Hat sie eingesegnet und ist in Deutschland Wieder Gezogen. So findet sich nichts Von Kindern die getauft als Von mir Wie steht nach ihm.

Kirchen Buch vor die in Albany in Allemaengel erbaute Lutherische Kirche darin auch denen Reformirten erlaubt ist Gottes Dienst zu halten zu ordentlich zeit.
Erbaut Anno 1768.

Bethel Church (New Allemaengel)

In Albany Township.

Church Record.

Kirchen Buch vor die vereinigte Protestantische Lutherisch und Reformirte Gemeinde, Allemaengele, Pennsylvania.

Anno Domini 1771, den 20ten Mey.

Daniel Schumacher.

Auf den 18ten Sontag Nach Trinitas Wurde der grund gelegt zu einer Neue Kirche in Pensylvanien im Jahr des Herrn 1770 in dem Township Albany oder Allemaengele der Cauntly bergs.

Auf dem Heiligen Pfingst Montag 1771 den 20sten May Ward die Neue Kirch alsz ein Gottes Hausz Vor Beide Gemeinden Lutherische und Reformirte Eingesegnet.

New Bethel Church

In Albany Township

Church Record.

Tauff und Kirchen buch in unserer Kirch im rosen Tahl in albany Dschieb 1761. Haben wir den grunt stein

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gelehget Den 11 nohfember beininer Dank und bet stunte
samt einer pretig aus dem propheten Mallachia und ist Er-
bauet in friete und Einig Keit.

Zion's Lutheran Church (Moselem)

In Richmond Township

Church Record.

Church Book for the Community at Ontelaunee com-
menced The 1st Jany 1741.

St. Paul's Church

In Windsor Township

Church Record.

Tauf und Kirchen Buch vor die Windsor gemeinde
in und am Blauen Berg. Welche ist eingeweihet worden
vom Hl. Pfarrer Dangel Schumacher in binsel fania den 6,
May 1756. The first congregation was known as Libanon
Church.

Zion's Church

In Perry Township

Church Record.

Kirchen Buch

oder

Protocoll

bey der

Evangelischen

(so wohl Lutherischen als Reformirten)

Gemeinde in Winsor Taunschib

in der Grafschaftt Bercks

und Provintz Pensilvanien gelegen.

Zion's Church (Blue Mountain)

In Upper Tulpehocken Township

Church Record.

Tauff Buch vor die Gemeinde an den Blauen Bergen, an
der North Kiel: Dolbenhacken Thaunschib Bercks Caunti:
Heut dado 21ten may: 1767.

Declaration and Agreement (Translation)

Proclaimed by the members of the Evangelical Lutheran
Congregation in Heidelberg Township (St. Daniel's)
probably in 1753

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN.

SINCE, through God's gracious providence and kind guidance, we have come from our old fatherland in Europe to America into this province of Pennsylvania, where we were received as subjects of our gracious King George II, and under whose most gracious scepter and sway, in addition to many other privileges and favors, we have the precious freedom of conscience, by virtue of which we are permitted to perform our regular worship, without disturbance and annoyance, according to our rules and regulations, and are also permitted to instruct ourselves and our children in the doctrines of God's word; consequently, from a motive of gratitude to God, esteem for our forefathers, and duty which we owe to ourselves, our children, and later generations, it shall be our great endeavor to preserve among us and posterity our pure and saving doctrine founded on God's word conformably to the original Augsburg Confession, etc., that we and those after us may have and keep a safe and sure way through this world of sorrow, through want and death, to eternal salvation.

In view of this, we, the deacons, elders, and members of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Heidelberg Township, in the county of Reading, have made known our desire to the venerable Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium in Pennsylvania and petitioned that body to provide us with a faithful teacher and at the same time to receive our congregation into its union.

Now, then, the said venerable Ministerium has granted our petition and request and sent to us a faithful teacher (one who by the grace of God was seeking a field of labor), viz., John Nicholas Kurtz, at the time pastor at Tulpehocken, who was willing and ready to serve us, having commenced his labors near the close of 1750, and subsequently, in 1751, laid the corner-stone of our new church which is to be erected.

Since, then, God is a God of order and also directs that all things be done decently and in order, but as there has been no formal organization in our congregation, and because of an evident necessity for such, we have agreed upon and adopted the articles hereinafter mentioned, which shall remain in force until amended and in accordance with which we will act and conduct the affairs of our congregation in the future.

1. No person shall be considered a member of this congregation who is not willing to have his name recorded in this church book; but such action is not intended for his harm or for the restriction of his liberty, but only for the purpose of good order and regularity.

2. Such a self-willed person shall not be served by our teacher, neither shall his children be baptized nor he be allowed at holy communion.

3. Every year, or as often as necessary, two (2) deacons shall be elected from the members of the church by a majority of the votes.

4. Such deacons shall be honest, free from coarse, prevailing sins and vices, and such as have good judgment.

5. At the election of such new deacons, the old deacons shall make settlement and shall deliver to the new deacons the accounts and money as well as the other church effects.

6. The deacons shall keep a watchful eye on the members of the congregation, and admonish such as lead disorderly lives, or inform the pastor so that such may be admonished and put in mind of their ways, especially at communion time.

7. Such as live in manifest deeds of the flesh shall not be considered members of the congregation until after thorough repentance and improvement.

8. All members irregular in life and behavior shall be dealt with according to the teachings and directions of our Lord Jesus Christ,—Matthew 18.

9. Each and every member of the congregation shall state and at the same time subscribe the amount of money that he wishes to give each year for the support of the

preacher, and at the end of the year hand such to the deacons.

10. No strange preacher shall be allowed to preach in our church, much less administer the sacrament, without previous announcement by our regular pastor and deacons.

11. We will not concede that our preacher of his own accord shall make an innovation or regulation without the agreement of the entire ministerial association (Synod).

12. Our congregation together with that at Tulpehocken shall be supplied by the regularly appointed and ordained pastors of that place.

13. We desire uniform church ceremonies with the united congregations.

14. As our Evangelical Lutheran Church will be greatly benefited and promoted by the church conventions (meetings of synod) to be held every year or as often as necessary, with a view to good and needful results, by the venerable Ministerium (Synod) of Pennsylvania, on which occasions the affairs of the congregation will be taken up and handled, we approve of such plan and arrangement not only as being commendable but also as being beneficial and necessary, and we shall be pleased to send at all times our pastors in addition to a delegate (properly authorized one), who shall represent our congregation there and aid and advise in promoting all favorable and useful measures.

Note.—This declaration is then followed by thirty-five names opposite which are the respective amounts pledged to the support of the pastor varying from two shillings, six pence to one pound.

School Code of 1743

Rules Governing the Church School

THE following thirteen regulations give the substance of a lengthy agreement concluded at Tulpehocken on February 27, 1743 or 1744 and witnessed by twelve interested parties. The original to be found in the Moravian Archives at Bethlehem. Similar rules governed the early schools throughout the county.

LUTHERANS IN BERKS COUNTY

1. The children of others besides members of the congregation may be admitted.

2. All such must apply to the teacher for admission.

3. The schoolmaster is to be thanked and notified before the withdrawal of pupils.

4. Pupils are to come and go in good order and are not to be absent except when necessary.

5. It is the teacher's duty to investigate where scholars do not attend promptly and regularly.

6. The teacher and parents are to co-operate so that there may be progress and success instead of failure.

7. The Small Catechism of Luther is to be used in instruction.

a. It is to be made plain by the teacher.

b. Scripture Texts and hymns are to be committed to memory.

c. The text books prescribed for language are the primer and reader issued by the University of Jena.

d. Advanced readers are to use the Bible.

e. Pupils shall be taught to write.

f. They shall also be taught to read what they have written.

g. As much arithmetic is to be taught as is needed by a Plantage Man.

8. Pupils are to be industrious and polite.

9. Unruly scholars are to be sharply reproved by the teacher. If this is not effectual the teacher is to bring the matter before the parents and if this does not avail the trouble is to be taken up in the presence of the deacons. Caution—Larger scholars should by all means be first privately admonished.

10. These rules are also to apply to the evening schools.

11. Deacons ought to visit the school.

12. Especially should scholars going to and coming from school be well behaved. If there is disorder it must be stopped.

13. When the congregation has a pastor of its own, chief supervision of the school belongs to him.

Note.—Teachers at this time were paid about twenty-five cents per pupil per term of several months. In addition they received about twenty-five dollars per year for acting as organist, half of which was paid in produce at market prices. They dwelled in one end of the school house, rent free, and were given sufficient firewood, and feed for one cow. In one instance where the teacher wanted to keep a horse he agreed to perform all his duties faithfully and in addition to cultivate the few acres of ground (which was the duty of the members) and keep the fences in repair if the congregation would give him one bushel of oats and one or more bundles of straw to keep his horse.

Farewell to Missionary Schultze

On the Departure from Halle, June 22, 1765,
of the right noble highly learned gentleman,

REV. CHRISTOPHER EMANUEL SCHULZE,

Pastor-elect of the Christian Congregation in Philadelphia,
in Pennsylvania,

Their dearest, beloved Friend.

A few of His

Good Friends and Fellow Citizens

Accompanied him with their best wishes and commended
themselves to his friendly regard.

Translated by the late Miss Margareta C. Ermentraut,
Reading, Pa.

FRIEND, so the German Empire hath no charm for
thee,

So thou dost hate the tame European plains
And choosest—oh brief time that we with thee so sweetly
passed,

Where art thou gone?—and choosest Columbus' trail
On the wild ocean to pursue!

Oh, could we but this once in Horatian spirit,

Raise our song in that poet's pictures

To paint the perilousness of the untried sea,

Surely we would attempt it—we would hold thee back,
And our heartfelt desire, the future to enjoy
Perhaps might move thee—yet ('twould be but) a quickly
fleeting happiness.

Can it be then that out of selfishness we'd rob
That people, who so earnestly have plead for him,
Whom from us the hand of Providence hath taken away,
Whom they themselves have for their service chosen?
No, though our friend our wishes dsappoints,
Yet would we not this fault ourselves allow
That Philadelphia's happiness, which of our friend deprives
us,

Less than our own we'd treasure.
When Jehovah's glory in the teacher's word disclosed,
Then shall, tho' far removed, our friend doubly delight us.
So follow then, O friend, the voice that calls,
Calls thee, like Abraham, to leave the Fatherland,
Calls thee to feed a flock that once in darkness slept
And sacrificed to idols, which they, now Christians, hate.
So toward the glorious hope, Jehovah points thee to,
Go the bleak sea with confidence across.
The stormwind's howling threats are stilled
Soon as their Lord commands, "here shall they rest
Those proud waves of thy might."

The nature smiles—and they that carry out his Word,
The winds in that same night driving away the gloomy
clouds,

To Nature's great Creator, to God, who on the storm
In kingly chariot rideth.

Yea, only to the vile, rash scoffer,
Who of Religion and its worth knows naught,
Is this fathomless pathway of Ocean a terror.
Not to him whom the Eternal calls to his own service,
Him will he, he hath promised, cover with his Tabernacle,
And angels 'round about him shall encamp.
We see them, the great mighty host
On the sea, friend, the wall of God around thee rear
And by the same announced each day,
"Conduct this friend of God safely to Philadelphia."
Jehovah calls, on that solemn festive day,

"Lovest thou me," and thou sayest, "Yea,"
 The sublime, godlike question he repeats,
 "Lovest thou me," and thou sayest, "Yea,"
 Then thy Saviour leads—what happiness—
 Thee to his flock—"so feed
 For me these my sheep faithfully"—
 So go, blest friend, with confidence from here:
 Be on thy path the light, ornament to thy office.
 And bless to thee all future hours;
 (The greatest happiness that ever mortal can attain).
 Be happy, fare thee well, remember us,
 This shall be, take yet the wish of friendship graciously,
 This shall be for us, O friend, the highest happiness.

Note.—Rev. Schulze after serving as second pastor in Philadelphia for five years came to Berks County and served here for the remainder of his life viz. thirty-eight years of pastoral service. He died in 1809 and is buried at Stouchsburg.



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Pastors not listed. Find name and places of service in "Brief Life Sketches" (Alphabetical Order) pp. 390-440 or in "Pastors 1701-1923" (Chronological Order) pp. 379-386.

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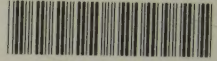
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